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Gorbachev Appeals For 'Yes' on Union, Yeltsin Advises 'No'

By Michael Dobbs
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — President Mikhail S. Gorbachev and his main political rival, Boris N. Yeltsin, the Russian leader, reached out to the public Friday with conflicting advice on how to vote in a landmark referendum Sunday on the future of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Gorbachev, who addressed the country on nationwide television at peak viewing time, appealed to Soviet citizens to vote in favor of preserving the Soviet Union as "a renewed federation of sovereign republics."

Casting himself in the role of defender of the 1,000-year-old Russian state, he said that a "yes" vote would put an end to nationalist upheavals and allow the continuation of his restructuring program.

"If you live in hatred, feud and disputes, you yourselves shall perish and you shall destroy the land of your fathers and grandfathers," said Mr. Gorbachev, citing a saying of Yaroslav the Wise, one of the founders of the medieval Russian state.

Mr. Yeltsin, who spoke in an interview on Radio Russia after he was denied television airtime by the Kremlin, rejected suggestions that a "no" vote would lead to the disintegration of the world's largest country.

He accused the central authorities of trying to scare Soviet citizens into voting "yes" in order to be able to present an image of support for a discredited political system.

"No matter what the results of the referendum are, the union will not fall apart," Mr. Yeltsin said. "Don't frighten people. Don't sow panic." He contended that a "yes" vote would preserve the "imperial and unitary" character of the Soviet Union.

Over the last few weeks, the Kremlin has conducted an intensive propaganda campaign suggesting that the future well-being of Soviet citizens depends on a decisive "yes" vote in the referendum. On Thursday, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda published a

picture of a handful of grain next to the word "yes" and a handful of bullets next to the word "no."

The nationalist-dominated parliaments of six of the 15 Soviet republics — the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia along with Moldavia, Georgia and Armenia — have refused to take part in the referendum on the grounds that they have no intention of signing a new union treaty. The Kremlin has responded by setting up polling booths in those republics at army bases and factories under Moscow's control.

Opinion polls suggest that the overall turnout for the referendum in the Slavic heartland of Russia, the Ukraine and Byelorussia will be about 70 percent, with 60 percent to 70 percent voting to preserve the union.

But most of the polls were taken before a series of opposition rallies calling on citizens to vote "no" in order to make clear their rejection of Communist Party policies.

In his radio interview Friday, Mr. Yeltsin stopped short of directly appealing to his supporters to vote "no," saying that it was up to Russian citizens to decide for themselves. But he made it clear that he regarded a "no" vote as the most sensible course, saying it would send a warning to the Kremlin that radical policy changes were needed.

Like many other Russian radicals, Mr. Yeltsin insists that he is in favor of signing a union agreement to replace the outdated 1922 treaty, as long as the rights of the republics are respected. But he ridiculed the wording of the Kremlin's referendum as virtually meaningless, saying that voters were being asked to endorse many different ideas at once.

The central question in the poll Sunday reads:

"Do you think it is necessary to preserve the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a renewed federation of sovereign republics with equal rights in which the rights and freedoms of an individual of any nation are guaranteed?"

See VOTE, Page 7



Secretary of State James A. Baker 3d, left, speaking with an adviser before beginning talks in the Kremlin on Friday with President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, right.

Arms Pact Problems Delay Summit

But Baker Asserts U.S.-Soviet Ties Are Still Strong

By Thomas L. Friedman

MOSCOW — Despite two days of talks between Secretary of State James A. Baker 3d and Soviet leaders, the two sides failed Friday to resolve differences over two major arms control agreements, which continue to hold up the next Soviet-American summit meeting.

Tass quoted an unnamed high-ranking Soviet diplomat who accused the Bush administration of stalling resolution of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty reducing long-range nuclear missiles. The diplomat said Washington was refusing to make "a political decision" to finalize the treaty and, "frankly speaking, does not seem to be willing to meet us halfway."

An American official described the allegation as a Soviet "smoke-screen" designed to disguise the fact that Soviet and American negotiators in Geneva keep working out the technical issues holding up the treaty, known as START, only to find that when the agreements are referred to the ministerial level for approval the Soviet leadership balks.

U.S. officials said President Mikhail S. Gorbachev was under pressure from the Soviet military and military-industrial complex, who believe the Kremlin has already made too many concessions on arms control and should now dig in its heels on START as well as on a pact limiting conventional weapons in Europe.

"We've been trying to meet them halfway," said a U.S. official. "But we are not going to pay extra just because of their internal problems."

Asked when these lingering differences might be worked out, Mr. Baker said, "I can't answer your question."

Although the first meeting between senior Soviet and U.S. officials since the end of the Gulf war did not produce any breakthrough on arms control, Mr. Baker and the Soviet foreign minister, Alexander A. Bessmertnykh, said that despite many dire predictions, the war did not result in a breach in U.S.-Soviet cooperation.

At a news conference following four hours of talks in the Kremlin between Mr. Baker and Mr. Gorbachev, the secretary of state said he hoped and expected that the Soviet Union would remain a "constructive partner" with the United States in stabilizing the postwar Gulf.

Mr. Baker, who at various stages of the crisis was routinely criticized in the United States by Republican conservatives for being naive about Soviet intentions in the Middle East, seemed to take particular relief in saying: "Many predictions were made, particularly in the latter stages of that crisis, that the Soviet Union could not remain committed to the same goals that other coalition partners were committed to. But it did."

Then, referring to Washington's decision to launch the ground war, despite an 11-hour Soviet bid to find a diplomatic solution, Mr. Baker said: "The relationship has gone through a test recently, and it has survived and that is good for the Soviet Union and that is good for the United States and that is good for the world and we should work to keep the relationship on the same track as it was possibly cold."

Mr. Bessmertnykh said: "What matters most is that the Soviet-U.S. relationship has gone through a very difficult test and passed that."

See TALKS, Page 6

U.S. Troops Move to Reclaim Some Iraqi Territory

By Douglas Jehl
Los Angeles Times Service

RIYADH — American troops, who have been ordered to reoccupy positions that they had held briefly but then abandoned, are driving as far as 50 kilometers deeper into Iraqi territory, according to a U.S. military commander.

Elements of the 101st Airborne and the 1st Cavalry are moving the 30 miles to reclaim their most advanced positions in the Euphrates River Valley, said Brigadier General Richard L. Neal, deputy director of operations for the U.S. Central Command.

"The purpose is to maintain a presence until the ceasefire is agreed to," General Neal said in an interview.

The move appeared to be part of the U.S. effort to increase pressure on President Saddam Hussein as he struggles to put down revolts against his regime. President George Bush already has signaled that U.S. forces might resume air attacks if Iraq uses chemical weapons against

rebels. He also warned Mr. Hussein to stop using helicopter forces to put down the insurgency.

(General Colin L. Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in Washington on Friday that U.S. troops were moving in southern Iraq to "demonstrate our presence," but warned against speculation on any pending military operations in Iraq, Reuters reported.)

"The demarcation line that was agreed to Sunday before last is intact," he said. The troop movements, he added, were "not any kind of a signal of change in our plans or pending future operations."

The territory along the Euphrates is the northernmost part of a vast area of southern Iraq seized by allied forces during the four-day ground offensive that forced Mr. Hussein to relinquish his occupation of Kuwait.

The river valley region was vacated as 101st Airborne and 1st Cavalry units began to move south in anticipation of an American withdrawal from Iraq once Mr. Hussein's

government had come to terms with allied officials on a formal cease-fire.

In ordering U.S. troops to reoccupy the territory, General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of allied forces in the Gulf, made clear that "he wanted them on that ground," General Neal said.

The reassertion of the American choke hold over much of southern Iraq appeared to be intended to send a clear signal to Mr. Hussein that he must exercise caution in dealing with the domestic rebellion or risk another confrontation with U.S. forces.

In Washington, Bush administration officials acknowledged that the United States intended to maintain military pressure on Mr. Hussein's government, even if doing so indirectly undercut the Iraqi leader's efforts to put down the rebellion.

"This behavior is clearly inconsistent with the type of

See IRAQ, Page 6

A Goal for Bush: Keeping Hussein Off Balance

By Patrick E. Tyler
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — President George Bush's warning to Iraq to stop combat operations against insurgent forces reflects a strong and recurring desire in the administration to bring Saddam Hussein's rule to an end, but to do so without crossing the line to direct intervention on the part of the

NEWS ANALYSIS

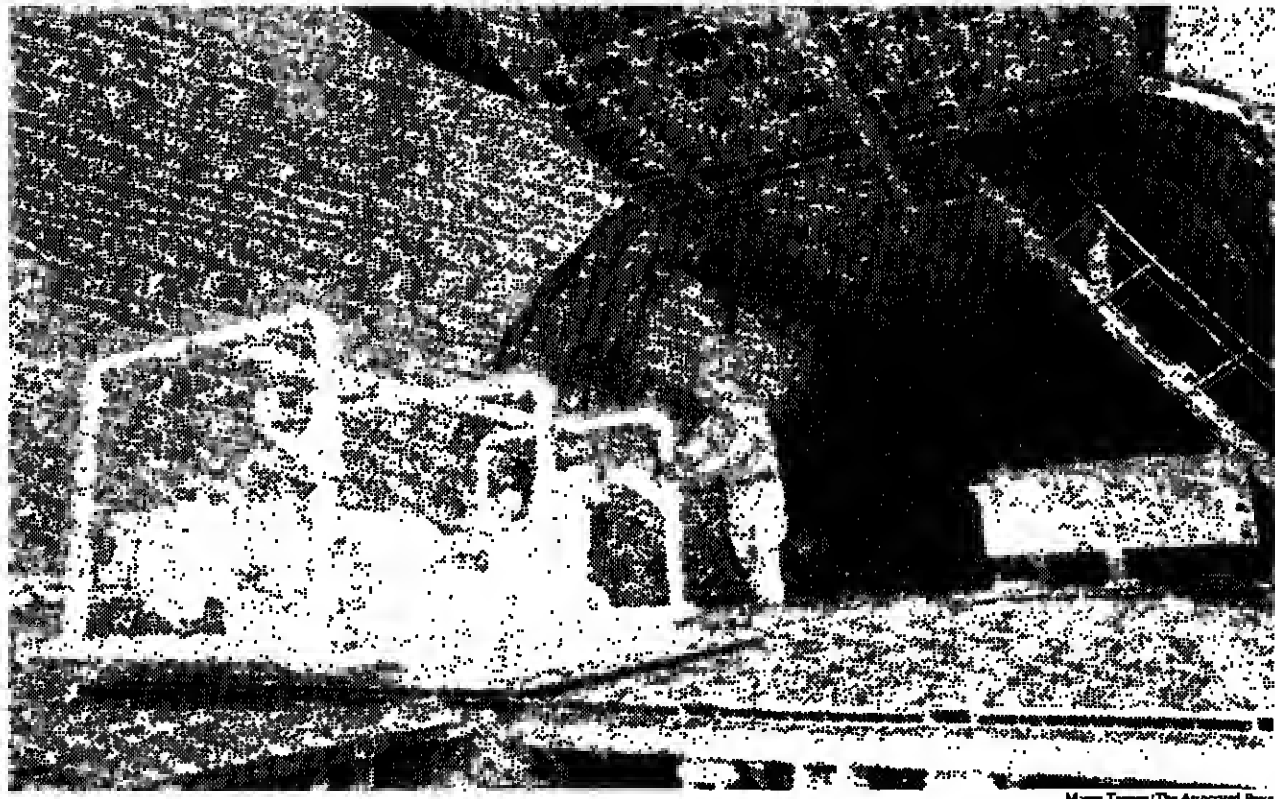
100,000 U.S. Army troops that continue to occupy southern Iraq.

As the cease-fire discussions drift and as the army occupies 15 percent of Iraq and flies over the rest of it daily, according to Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, administration officials say there is a strong current to use presidential rhetoric, threats, and pressure to keep Mr. Hussein guessing about American intentions.

That uncertainty, officials say, will make him think twice about the means he uses to restore order in Iraq.

The political-military reality in the Gulf is the presence of hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops who are still poised for combat and the implied threat they represent to Mr. Hussein's rule, as well as the encouragement they provide, by their presence, to the insurgents struggling against Baghdad.

On Thursday in Maronique, Mr. Bush and President François Mitterrand of France reaffirmed their determination not to exceed the United Nations mandate on



A U.S. Air Force worker unloading fire-fighting equipment at Kuwait's airport for use on oil wells. The equipment belongs to Boots & Coots Company, of Houston, one of several that have been contracted to fight the blazes set at the country's wells by Iraqis.

expelling Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Mr. Bush stepped back somewhat from the remarks he made in Ottawa on Wednesday, when he suggested that Mr. Hussein had violated the tentative cease-fire

agreement with the United States by flying helicopter gunship missions against rebels.

Mr. Bush also said he did not mean to imply that American troops would not leave Iraq until the repression ceased. "All I'm

saying is that using helicopters like this to put down one's own people does not add to the stability of the area," he said.

At the same time, the French president left open the possibility that allied forces could intervene

in Iraq if asked by the United Nations Security Council.

Mr. Bush said, "We are not in there trying to impose a solution inside Iraq" and reiterated that

See WARN, Page 6

Yugoslav President Quits, Citing Unrest

By David Binder
New York Times Service

BELGRADE — Yugoslavia's federal president, Borisav Jovic, resigned Friday evening after the defeat of his proposal to give the army emergency powers to intervene in rivalries between nationalities in this deeply divided country.

He announced his action in a brief appearance on Belgrade television. The resignation was the latest twist in a series of developments that started last Saturday with mass demonstrations of Serbs in the capital against the policies of Slobodan Milosevic, the Belgrade strongman who is president of the Serbian republic. Mr. Jovic, also a Serb, has been a protégé of Mr. Milosevic.

Shortly after Mr. Jovic announced his resignation, Vice President Stipe Mesic said in a statement to independent television that he was taking over as acting president. The move conforms to the Yugoslav Constitution.

Under normal circumstances, Mr. Mesic, who is from Croatia, would have taken over from Mr. Jovic in eight weeks.

The federal presidency consists of eight members, representing the six republics and two regions of Yugoslavia, who rotate through the office of president once a year. It was this body that rejected the Serbian proposal submitted by Mr. Jovic that the army of 250,000 be given emergency powers.

The Jovic resignation, from a

post that holds little substantive authority, comes at a time when this country of 23 million is in the midst of political crisis heightened by tensions among nationalities and republics and compounded by deterioration of the economy.

The action seemed to have been stage-managed by Mr. Milosevic with the intention of provoking fresh strains in Yugoslav political life.

Last Saturday, as Serbian police fired into crowds of young Serbs, killing one and wounding dozens, Mr. Milosevic hid out at an army base in nearby Karadjordjevo and remained there Sunday while army tanks and armored cars rolled inside the capital.

The demonstrations ended peacefully Thursday morning. Mr. Milosevic has yet to face the Serbian public.

Mr. Jovic said he was stepping down as president because he did not want to be an "accomplice" in potentially disruptive decisions. As he announced his resignation, the army was meeting to consider what action to take after its plan for a crackdown was rejected for the second time in three days.

"Bearing in mind my duty as the president," Mr. Jovic said, "I inform the public that I cannot be an accomplice in decisions which help destroy the country with possibly catastrophic consequences for our citizens and people."

He added, "Therefore I decided to resign as president, believing it is

See SERB, Page 6

Soviets Won't Yield Honecker

They Admit to 'Technical Violation' of German Rights

By Marc Fisher
Washington Post Service

BONN — The Soviet Union acknowledged Friday that its decision to move the former East German Communist leader, Erich Honecker, to Moscow without Bonn's permission was a "technical violation" of unified Germany's newly won sovereignty. But the Soviets said Mr. Honecker's return would be "impossible."

Although Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher demanded that Mr. Honecker be sent back to Germany to face manslaughter charges, German officials conceded that he would almost certainly never face trial.

Berlin justice officials have sought since December to serve a warrant on Mr. Honecker, 78, who

is accused of having caused nearly 200 deaths by ordering East German border guards to shoot citizens trying to leave the country.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, Vitali I. Churkin, said that Mr. Honecker had been removed from his refuge at a Soviet Army base near Berlin on Wednesday because he is "an old, ill person" who requires treatment in Moscow.

Mr. Honecker's attorneys said that when they last saw their client a week ago, he was ill but showed no sign of rapid deterioration.

The dispute over Mr. Honecker, East Germany's leader for 18 years until he was deposed in the 1989 revolution, threatens to strain relations between two countries that have devoted enormous effort in

recent months to creating their strongest ties in half a century.

Negotiations over the Soviet endorsement of German unification and the withdrawal of the 370,000 Soviet troops in eastern Germany reached fruition only last week, when Moscow's parliament ratified the treaty on German unity.

Only hours before the Soviets acknowledged violation of German sovereignty, the Soviet ambassador delivered to Bonn officials the signed treaty granting Germany full sovereignty for the first time since World War II. Under the treaty, the Soviet military forces remaining in Germany are subject to German law.

"Treaties between the Soviet Union and Germany are not treaties between banana republics," said HONECKER, Page 7

Kiosk

World Bank Aids Tehran in Quake

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The World Bank announced Friday that it had approved a \$250 million loan to help finance an earthquake recovery program in Iran, the first World Bank loan to Tehran since 1978.

The loan, made with U.S. approval, is for 15 years and will be issued to help rebuild parts of northwest Iran that were devastated by an earthquake on June 21. The quake measured 7.7 on the Richter scale and killed about 35,000 people.

General News

Kurdish rebels hold much of northern Iraq, senior U.S. analysts say. Page 5.

John Major appears ready to drop the "poll tax" instituted by Margaret Thatcher. Page 2.

Fashion

Lagerfeld shows a Midas touch. Special Report Pages 15-17.

Business/Finance
A flight from Deutsche marks sent the dollar soaring on Friday. Page 9.

Carl Icahn said a government ruling on route sales would hurt TWA. Page 9.

Money

Swiss banks, U.S. property, coast to coast. Pages 18-19.

Crossword

Weather. Page 7.

Down	Across
2,948.27	DM 1.607
Down	Pound 1.8225
3.96	Yen 137.75
	FF 5.4735

Tokyo's Computer Bid: 'Join Us'

Its Research Invitation Puts U.S. and Europe on Spot

By David E. Sanger
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Japanese government officials this week invited the leading computer companies in the United States and Europe, along with the top research universities on both sides of the Atlantic, to join in a 10-year project to develop advanced computers for the next century.

For reasons that appear equally rooted in trade politics and Japan's own technological gaps, Tokyo is going to great lengths to draw American and European researchers into the project.

The invitation, extended during an international conference to help shape the project, seems open to all comers, though clearly Japan will direct its pitch to leading companies, which would have the resources to donate personnel and financing to the project.

The effort is being led by Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

to its results and millions of dollars in funds for research — or to work in projects that largely exclude their Japanese competitors.

On the one hand there is a growing movement to erect walls around certain key technologies. The Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corp. and Sematech, two American high-technology consortiums, bar Japanese membership. And in Europe there is a movement to erect ICL Ltd., the British computer maker, from some European computer forums because it has been acquired by Fujitsu Ltd., Japan's biggest computer maker.

On the other hand, major American companies, including Texas Instruments and IBM, are entering ventures with Japanese partners on specific high-technology products in which Japan holds a significant lead.

"There is always a weighing of risks and rewards, and I am sure that is what everyone will have to do in deciding whether to cooperate in this project," said Dr. Stefan Seidel, who watches Japanese technology

See COMPUTER, Page 10

Major Sets an About-Face on Thatcher's 'Poll Tax'

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

LONDON — In the biggest U-turn in British politics in a decade, Prime Minister John Major appears set to scrap the unpopular "poll tax" that his predecessor, Margaret Thatcher, introduced in England and Wales last year.

That, along with a markedly more conciliatory tone about the European political and monetary union that was anathema to Mrs. Thatcher, has led some Thatcher loyalists in the Conservative Party to cry betrayal.

But with a general election due by early July 1992, public opinion polls are telling Mr. Major that he cannot win without resolving public furor over the poll tax, formally called the "community charge." It is a per capita levy, set by local authorities for local services such as education, garbage collection and street cleaning, at the same rate for all adults in every household, regardless of income.

Mr. Major has made clear that he intends to replace it, although his aides denied British news reports Friday that he had already decided how. He said Thursday that the government was "close to settling proposals that are fair, that will not

impose undue burdens on the local taxpayer, that will unite opinion," but did not reveal the details.

A final decision is expected next week from the full cabinet. The most widely discussed alternative is some form of property tax based on assessed capital values of houses, not, as before, the community charge, on their theoretical rental value. Another is a property tax that would vary depending on the number of occupants of a dwelling.

The new prime minister, who enjoyed near-record levels of popular approval during the Gulf war, finds himself presiding over the kind of party squabble that racked Mrs. Thatcher's leadership last year, both on the tax and on Europe.

"If we go back to a property tax, there will be 9 million losers, most of them Conservative voters in the home counties and round London," said Sir Rhodes Boyson, one of the 60 or so die-hard supporters of the poll tax who threaten to revolt if it is eliminated.

In an article published Friday in the weekly newspaper *The European*, Nicholas Ridley, a former minister and one of Mrs. Thatcher's closest friends, criticized Mr. Major's attitude on European political and

economic union as "all things to all men for as long as possible."

Privately, he said, the prime minister is telling his party "he wants to have no truck with it." But publicly, Mr. Major has been singing a different tune. He told Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany in Bonn on Monday, "I want to be where we belong — at the very heart of Europe, working with our partners in building the future."

So heated is the debate that Mr. Major's subsequent Thatcherite assertions passed almost unnoticed. He pointed out that European economies were too far apart to make monetary union a practical possibility anytime soon, that Britain would not accept the imposition of a single currency and that European states would go on making their most important foreign policy decisions as separate sovereign states.

Trying to preserve party unity, Mr. Major's aides are eager to minimize the prime minister's policy differences with Mrs. Thatcher. She regarded him as her protégé, and urged her supporters to vote for him in the three-way party leadership contest after her forced resignation in November.

But asked recently whether he would describe himself as a "Thatcherite," Mr. Major answered: "I never describe myself

as anything. People must make up their own minds."

The community charge, set in England and Wales last year at an average rate of £357 (\$670), had turned out to be much too high for people on modest incomes, he said, even though the average amount actually due, after rebates, was £250 per person over the age of 18. When Mrs. Thatcher proposed the tax, before the 1987 elections, she said she hoped it would average £150 a head. It was introduced in Scotland in April 1989.

The idea, in Thatcherite theory, was to make local authorities more directly accountable to voters for what they spent. Profligate local councilors would be voted out, and parsimonious (preferably Conservative) ones voted in. It worked in a few places. But much more often, voters furious at their new local tax bills took out their anger on the central government and the Conservatives for having imposed the system.

A poll taken last weekend and published Friday in *The Independent* newspaper showed that the Labor Party, which promises to abolish the tax, was edging ahead of the Conservatives nationwide, 39 percent to 38 percent, for the first time since the Gulf war.

Gene Offers Early Hope In Detecting Colon Cancer

By Natalie Angier
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Scientists have discovered a gene that seems to be the first to go awry when a colon cell begins the long spin toward cancer. The isolation of the gene could offer doctors a means of detecting colon cancer at the earliest possible stage, when it is easily cured.

The gene could also help doctors identify those who have an inborn predisposition to cancer of the colon and the rectum, a propensity that is thought to account for at least 20 percent of all cases and possibly many more. Those people found to be at risk could then be screened with heightened vigilance.

"Many of us, around the world, have been anxiously awaiting this piece of information," said Dr. Hans Gerd, a gastroenterologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York who is a leading colon cancer specialist. "We've been waiting to hear about the gene that causes colon cancer, and this could be it."

The report of the discovery appears in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*, and among its long list of authors are two of the most prominent molecular biologists in the country, Dr. Bert Vogelstein of the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center in Baltimore, and Dr. Raymond L. White of the University of Utah, as well as a research team from the Cancer Institute in Tokyo.

But researchers warned that the full relevance of the gene to either hereditary or other types of colon cancer remained to be demonstrated.

"I'm just as thrilled as I can be about it, and this is potentially a terribly important cancer gene," Dr. White said.

Researchers are heartened by the discovery because a crucial portion of the new gene resembles another class of genes with which they are already quite familiar. The molecular cloning suggests therapeutic approaches that could help cure or prevent the malignancy.

Dr. Henry T. Lynch, a colon cancer expert at Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, called it a study of "landmark importance."

Colorectal cancer kills more people in the United States than any other type except lung and breast malignancies. The American Cancer Society estimates that 60,500 people will die of colorectal cancer this year, and 157,500 people will contract it this year, with about half of them dying within five years.

Researchers have a more sophisticated understanding of the evolution of colon cancer than they do of any other type of tumor.

They know that the malignancy begins with the appearance of a polyp on the colon lining, and that the polyp becomes increasingly aggressive and invasive, eventually reaching a malignant phase when a few cancer cells break free and spread to distant parts of the body.

The process from initiation of the tumor to its spread, or metastasis, is thought to take about 30 years and to involve the mutation of five to seven genes.

In the past decade, Dr. Vogelstein and other researchers have found several of these genes, but all of them seemed to play a role at relatively advanced stages of the malignancy, after the tumor had already taken hold.

By contrast, the newly discovered gene appears to be the one controlling that decisive moment when a healthy colon cell takes its first leap toward cancer, and begins proliferating into a polyp.

The gene, known as MCC for mutated in colorectal cancer, is situated on the bottom half of chromosome 5, out of the 23 matched pairs of chromosomes found in human cells.

Scientists strongly believe that the gene is a tumor suppressor gene, which normally acts to curb the unruly growth of cells.

They suspect that colon cancer begins when the MCC gene is deactivated, either through a hereditary defect or as a result of a mutation at some point in life, perhaps from exposure to radiation, carcinogens in the environment or a high-fat diet.

WORLD BRIEFS

Soviets Get China Commodity Loan

BEDING (NYT) — China has extended a commodity loan of about \$730 million to the Soviet Union, to buy Chinese grain, meat, peanuts, tea and other products, the China Daily announced Friday.

A Soviet Embassy official confirmed the report but declined to discuss the terms of the loan or other details. The Chinese report indicated only that the terms were "favorable." Some diplomats say they believe the loan is part of a larger package that will include significant Soviet sales of weapons and fighter planes to China.

Foreign diplomats said that the loan appeared intended not only to bolster trade and friendship with the Soviet Union, but also as a small contribution toward preserving stability there. Prime Minister Li Peng was reported Friday to have told Deputy Prime Minister Yuri D. Maslyukov, who is visiting Beijing, that China hoped the Soviet Union would enjoy political stability.

Thai Junta Sets Up a New Assembly

BANGKOK (Reuters) — The Thai military junta, which seized power in a coup last month, announced on Friday a new National Assembly dominated by soldiers.

The assembly, which will be charged with approving a new constitution paving the way for elections and the return of civilian rule, included some former members of parliament as well as businessmen, technocrats and journalists. It will replace the assembly dissolved as a result of the Feb. 23 coup and has 292 members. Radio Thailand said. The previous National Assembly was elected democratically in 1988 and had more than 300 members.

More than half of the new members are serving or retired officers. It gave no other details. The military overthrew Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan in a bloodless coup, charging his government was corrupt and had misused power. The junta appointed a civilian caretaker prime minister and a cabinet made up largely of technocrats as the first step toward honoring its pledge to hold elections by the end of the year.

Opposition Set for Gains in Finland

HELSINKI (AP) — Opinion polls published Friday in Finland predicted that the opposition would make major gains in parliamentary elections Sunday, but it remained unclear how the 17 competing parties would form a government.

The polls indicated that the main opposition grouping, the Center Party, would become Finland's largest political force, with 24 percent of the vote, and that the two leading government partners, the Social Democrats and the Conservatives, would lose votes.

But they could stay in power by reshaping a coalition with their smaller government partners, the Rural Party and the Swedish People's Party. The current coalition has governed for four years, one of the longest terms since Finland became independent from Russia in 1917.

Havel to Propose Law on Secession

PRAGUE (AP) — President Vaclav Havel will submit to parliament a draft law that would allow Czechoslovakia's two republics to hold a referendum on leaving the federation, officials said Friday.

The measure, to be submitted on Tuesday, stipulates that a simple majority of voters in either the Czech or the Slovak republic would be sufficient for legal secession, the officials said.

Separatist passions have risen sharply in Slovakia, the easternmost third of the country. In a television appearance, Mr. Havel, who was roughed up by nationalists in Slovakia on Thursday, suggested holding a referendum on keeping the republics together. Rather than living "in a nonfunctioning federation," he said, "it is better to live in two independent states."

Hiroshima Assailed Over 14 Deaths

TOKYO (Reuters) — Japanese ministers bitterly criticized the Hiroshima city government Friday after a steel girder crashed from a monorail construction site onto a busy street, killing 14 people and injuring 9.

"It is insane to do such construction work without blocking the street," Home Affairs Minister Akira Fukuda said. Transport Minister Kaneko Muraoka also expressed outrage. "The streets near the construction site must be closed even if local citizens opposed any traffic diversion," he said. The police in the city searched several offices of the contractor, the Sakurada company.

The girder was being lifted into position Thursday when it toppled from support pylons and demolished a line of cars waiting at a red light. The overhead rail system is to link central Hiroshima with a suburban sports complex, site of the 1994 Asian Games.

U.S. Downgrades Warning on Syria

WASHINGTON (IHT) — With the end of the war against Iraq, the State Department has downgraded its advisory on travel in Syria. It no longer is warning against travel but instead urging travelers to exercise caution.

The department has issued a warning to travelers to Niger that recent political developments have increased the possibility of public disorder and risks to personal security. It has also canceled its warning against travel to Thailand since the coup there Feb. 23. And it urged Americans to defer all nonessential travel to Yugoslavia.

Japan Airlines will introduce six new international routes, the airline said Friday. The first of the services in the two-year plan will be three flights a week from Tokyo to Washington, starting March 30. In April, JAL will start daily flights between Nagoya and Pusan, South Korea. The company is also considering international services between Tokyo and Berlin, Tokyo and Maui Island via Honolulu with Hawaiian Airlines, Hiroshima and Seoul, and joint flights with Air New Zealand on a Nagoya-Auckland route. JAL will also increase flights on international services such as Nagoya-Honolulu, Osaka-Singapore, Tokyo-Chicago, Tokyo-Beijing, and Tokyo-Hong Kong by 1992-93.

Cathay Pacific Airways is to resume its flights to Bahrain beginning April 1. Its services using Bahrain as a stopover between Hong Kong and London have been rerouted away from the Middle East since January because of the Gulf conflict. (APF)

WEATHER

EUROPE				ASIA			
	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP.		HIGH	LOW	PRECIP.
Amsterdam	11	5	C	Bangkok	26	22	C
Athens	14	7	F	Beijing	4	-1	F
Berlin	10	3	F	Bombay	28	24	C
Brussels	10	3	F	Calcutta	28	24	C
Cairo	18	10	F	Chengdu	18	14	C
Cardiff	11	4	F	Chongqing	18	14	C
Copenhagen	10	3	F	Colombo	28	24	C
Dublin	10	3	F	Dhaka	28	24	C
Frankfurt	10	3	F	Delhi	28	24	C
Geneva	10	3	F	Guangzhou	18	14	C
Hamburg	10	3	F	Hankow	18	14	C
Heidelberg	10	3	F	Hong Kong	28	24	C
London	10	3	F	Kobe	18	14	C
Lyon	10	3	F	Manila	28	24	C
Munich	10	3	F	Medan	28	24	C
Nuremberg	10	3	F	Osaka	18	14	C
Paris	10	3	F	Seoul	18	14	C
Rome	10	3	F	Singapore	28	24	C
Stockholm	10	3	F	Taipei	18	14	C
Vienna	10	3	F	Tokyo	18	14	C
Zurich	10	3	F				



BEATING THE PRICE INCREASE — Romanians lining up to buy eggs Friday in Bucharest. Under economic changes introduced by the governing National Salvation Front, egg prices will rise substantially next month. The party is holding a congress this weekend amid reports that it is split into factions.

Doc Pomus, 65, Songwriter, Dies, Wrote Early Rock and Roll Hits

By Stephen Holden
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Jerome (Doc) Pomus, 65, who with his partner, Mort Shuman, was one of the most successful rock and roll songwriters of the early 1960s, died of lung cancer Thursday in a New York hospital.

Among the hit songs written by Mr. Pomus and Mr. Shuman were "Save the Last Dance for Me," "A Teenager in Love" and "This Magic Moment."

Mr. Pomus, whose real name was Jerome Solon Felder, was born in Brooklyn. He began his musical career as a blues singer and songwriter in the early 1950s.

Mr. Pomus wrote songs that Ray Charles recorded in the mid-1950s, including the rhythm-and-blues classic "Lonely Avenue" and, with Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, the 1957 hit "Young Blood."

During the Pomus-Shuman collaboration, which began in early 1958, Mr. Pomus, who was known as a streetwise phrase maker, wrote most of the lyrics while Mr. Shuman composed the music. Their first major pop hit was "A Teenager in Love," written for Dion and the Belmonts in 1959.

The collaboration reached its artistic and commercial peak with a succession of hits for the Drifters that included "This Magic Moment" and "Save the Last Dance for Me."

The team also wrote for Elvis Presley, who recorded "A Mess o' Blues," "His Latest Flame," and "Little Sister," among others.

The Pomus-Shuman partnership dissolved in 1965 and, after a fall that left him confined to a wheelchair, Mr. Pomus went into semi-retirement.

He re-emerged in the mid-1970s. Working with John Belushi, he was responsible for putting together the Blues Brothers band.

He also teamed with Mac Rebennack, known as Dr. John, and wrote the songs for Dr. John's albums "City Lights" and "Tango Palace." With Mr. Rebennack he also wrote most of the material for B.B. King's album "There Must Be a Better World Somewhere," which won a 1981 Grammy award.

Howard Ashman, 40, Stage Writer and Director NEW YORK (NYT) — Howard Ashman, 40, an Oscar-winning lyricist and a librettist, playwright and director who wrote and staged the Off Broadway hit "Little Shop of Horrors," died of AIDS on Thursday at a New York hospital.

Mr. Ashman was the artistic director of the WPA Theater in 1982 when he collaborated with the composer Alan Menken on "Little Shop of Horrors," the tale of a timid flower store clerk who sells his soul to a man-eating plant.

With Mr. Menken, Mr. Ashman won an Academy Award in 1989 for "Under the Sea," a popular song in the Disney film "The Little Mermaid."

■ Other deaths: Eatheridge Knight, 57, an acclaimed poet who began writing in prison, of lung cancer Sunday in Indianapolis.

Archibald W. Singsha, 58, a teacher and authority on the Caribbean, of a brain tumor Tuesday in New York.

Nicola Rossi-Lemaire, 70, a bass singer whose career extended over 45 years, of cancer Tuesday in Bloomington, Indiana.

John Ballers, 53, a children's book author, of heart disease March 8 in Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Marquitos Dominguez, 117, believed to be one of the oldest people in the United States, of heart failure Tuesday in Anson, Texas.

U.S. Retracts Assertion on Jordan Arms

WASHINGTON — The State Department on Friday contradicted reports released two weeks ago by the Pentagon alleging Jordan had delivered arms to Iraq after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait.

Following a "careful investigation," the department "found nothing that confirms the official or unofficial transfer by Jordan of arms to Iraq subsequent to the invasion of Kuwait," said Richard A. Boucher, a State Department deputy spokesman.

The Pentagon said on Feb. 28 that U.S. troops in Kuwait seized a supply of arms and ammunition produced in Jordan and bearing shipping dates stating they were delivered in January. Pictures of the weapons were shown on U.S. television.

Mr. Boucher said Friday that "military authorities have found nothing which contradicts the Jordanian government claim that it delivered arms to Iraq only at the beginning and in the mid-80s, during the war against Iran."

"We continue to be alert," he added.

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Dr. J. van der Vliet

INTERNATIONAL Herald Tribune

Published With The New York Times and The Washington Post

The Lebanon Hostages

The American military prisoners of war in Iraq are coming home, but a half-dozen American civilians and as many Europeans remain hostages in Lebanon. The longest held among these veteran prisoners is the journalist Terry Anderson, who begins his seventh year in captivity on Saturday, reportedly chained to a wall. The terrorists endured by these innocents — assuming they are all still alive — constitute an overwhelming indictment of their captors. They are prisoners not for any individual act or alleged offense of their own but simply because they are American, British, German, Italian. That imposes on their fellow citizens, acting mostly through their governments, a grave obligation to do what can be done to set them free.

Originally it seemed that their Iranian-backed fundamentalist Hezbollah kidnappers wanted to trade them for the release of a group of relatives and comrades of the Iraqi-backed Dawa group convicted of the terrorist bombings of several embassies in Kuwait. It is known that the Iraqi invaders of Kuwait let the Dawa prisoners, conceivably to free them travel back to Iran or Lebanon. Logic suggested that, with the

Dawa group now beyond a prisoner exchange, the remaining captives in Lebanon would be let go. Instead, it is reported, they were simply moved from one location to another within Lebanon.

Lebanon, and that part of Lebanon in particular, is in the orbit of Syria, a country that found its way to the American side in the Iraq war and whose president has just been visited by the American secretary of state. Syria's repeated professions of incapacity to act in behalf of the hostages are one of the great political pretenses of recent years and, necessarily, a heavy continuing burden on U.S.-Syrian relations. Iran's similar insistence that it is unable to bring its political progeny to a decent humanitarian concern is another constant of the period — and a high obstacle to Iran's full participation in new Gulf security arrangements and in the international economy.

In the Gulf and Lebanon, in Iraq and Iran, the scene is changing. Perhaps the result will be to shake out the hostages. Until then, Americans will ask why Syria and Lebanon have not acted to end their ordeal.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

What Price for Fuel?

OPEC decided earlier this week to cut oil production by about a million barrels a day in an attempt to control oil prices. The modest cut — 5 percent — is probably enough to keep prices from collapsing, but it is unlikely to push them much above the current price of around \$18 a barrel.

What price should Americans be footing for? For some, the issue is simple: The price should be as low as possible, because every extra dollar the United States pays OPEC is one less dollar for itself. For others, the issue is complicated by political factors: to protect the environment and reduce dependence on the politically volatile Middle East, the price should be high, perhaps even above OPEC's target of \$21 a barrel, thus encouraging conservation.

In this case, the simple idea is better. The best OPEC price is the lowest OPEC price. The need to conserve energy can be handled by piling on taxes. Taxes are paid by some Americans to other Americans. That makes a lot more sense than paying ransom to OPEC.

Oil prices have been falling since the outbreak of war in the Gulf and are now about the same as a year ago. With two of the largest oil exporters — Iraq and Kuwait — dominant, low prices might seem surprising.

But oil production has not fallen much because Saudi Arabia has raised its production by several million barrels a day. And demand for oil is weak because several large economies, including America's, are suffering economic slowdowns, if not recessions.

Falling oil prices are an economic blessing for the United States and other oil-importing nations. Living standards rise because the nation is forced to give up less food, chemicals and computers in exchange for foreign oil. That is important for rich countries, and

a matter of life and death for poor countries in Africa, Asia and South America. Falling oil prices lower production costs, thereby making investment more profitable, and give a temporary reprieve from inflation.

Philip Verleger, an oil expert at the Institute for International Economics in Washington, makes a more subtle point: The United States needs low oil prices now to help build back stocks in anticipation of large needs next winter.

The drawback of lower oil prices is that they stimulate consumption, and that creates problems. Gasoline and other energy use pollutes air and water and contributes to global warming. Yet consumers pay for none of this damage. Nor do energy consumers pay the likely costs of future supply interruptions from the volatile Middle East or future military bills protecting Saudi Arabia and Kuwaiti oilfields.

The most effective way to make consumers pay the full cost of energy is to levy higher energy taxes. Americans would then switch to fuel-efficient cars, move closer to work, ride-share and make thousands of other decisions that would help protect the environment. And with higher energy taxes, Congress would not need to micromanage new automobile technologies, light-bulb specifications and adoption of alternative fuels.

The best tax would apply to all fuels, or at least all carbon-based fuels. A gasoline tax would be a good second choice. How high would the tax need to be? The estimates range from 20 cents to \$2 a gallon.

But disagreement over the level should not obscure the principle: Congress, not OPEC, has the responsibility to set the right price for America.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

From Belgrade Streets

Slobodan Milosevic, president of Serbia, Yugoslavia's largest republic, claims to speak for all Serbs when he insists that Yugoslavia's six republics must live in a centralized state and economy. The thousands of Serb protesters in Belgrade's streets demonstrate how wrong he is.

By weakening Mr. Milosevic, the demonstrators may well advance interests that Americans and friends of freedom share: to help avoid bloodshed and secure the human rights of ethnic minorities nationwide.

Mr. Milosevic wants to maintain the federation by force, but Slovenia and Croatia resist. They are prepared to declare independence, but that would leave a substantial minority of Serbs within Croatia looking to Serbia for protection. The result could well be violence and civil war.

In June, Mr. Milosevic condemned the looser confederation sought by Slovenia and Croatia. "Confederation," he said, "is not a state, but an alliance of states; therefore there can be no confederation, even if all political subjects of Yugoslavia wanted it, within ... existing borders." The choice, as he framed it, was between the present Yugoslav state and a Greater Serbia.

He has further alienated his neighbors by trampling the rights of the Albanian majority in Serbia's Kosovo Province. That made even more fearful the prospect of life in a

Yugoslavia dominated by Serbia. Mr. Milosevic, a hard-line Communist, remains devoted to central planning and is willing to pay for it with sordid manipulation.

The most recent example was unilaterally printing \$1.3 billion in dinars to meet the payrolls and pensions of workers in Serbia's failing state enterprises. Understandably, that shocked other regions — and jeopardized the hopeful economic reforms of the current national government.

For a time it seemed likely that in the elections due this fall he would be elected easily. But that was before his supposedly solid Serbian support turned to street protests. "We made a mistake," said one Serb. "We were thinking that Milosevic was a kind of Serbian Gorbachev."

Mr. Milosevic retains a potential ally in the Serb-dominated Yugoslav Army, which might rally to his side and resist the dismantling of the unitary state and centrally planned economy. If it did that, civil war would almost surely result. But the army so far disavows any intention to intervene.

The erosion of Mr. Milosevic's political support opens the possibility of genuine dialogue among Yugoslavia's republics, leading either to loosened confederation or negotiated separation. Either would be an outcome Americans can endorse.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Comment

Gorbachev at the Brink

The Soviet Union may be about to plunge from crisis to catastrophe. A confidential official report says that this year's gross national product could drop by 11.6 percent, nearly four times the decline in 1990. Searching for a comparison, a Soviet official invokes memories of the famine of the 1930s and the purges and repression that followed, when millions perished.

Mikhail Gorbachev set in motion a great political turnaround. But the effort mounted to rescue the economy has been marked by consistent failure. He and his fellow reformers underestimated not just the enormity of the task they faced but the tenacious resistance they would encounter. At the same time the reformers seriously

overestimated their ability to control the restless independence forces that exploded into activity as restrictions eased.

Sunday's referendum on a new "federation of sovereign republics" is Mr. Gorbachev's desperate effort to hold the empire together. But the vote won't stop the push for independence. And America and its allies could soon confront a fearful decision: At what point might the West begin to distance itself from the Gorbachev regime out of sympathy for long repressed peoples?

It is far from certain whether Mr. Gorbachev can achieve the new relationship between the government and the governed that his country needs. What is clear is that the West should do whatever it can to encourage such an evolution.

— Los Angeles Times.

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OPINION



AFTERMATH: Over the strenuous objections of the House speaker, a congressional delegation takes an expenses-paid trip to Kuwait.

Rebels Have Grip On Iraqi North, U.S. Analysts Say

By Jonathan C. Randal and Valerie Strauss
Washington Post Service

Senior U.S. analysts support Kurdish rebel claims that President Saddam Hussein's government has lost control of much of northern Iraq to insurgents, but they said that the Iraqi leader appeared to be in control of Baghdad as well as most of southern Iraq.

Iraq has angrily denied reports from opposition leaders, the United States and Iran that popular rebellion has spread to Baghdad.

In a series of official statements that seemed designed to show that Mr. Hussein had not lost his grip on power, Baghdad has accused unnamed countries of waging an aggressive propaganda campaign and announced new measures aimed at easing living conditions in the capital.

Senior U.S. analysts in Washington confirmed that Mr. Hussein's regime was largely in control of southern Iraq, saying that government forces were staging a "mopping-up operation" after widespread fighting erupted following the end of the Gulf war last month.

There were no new reports Thursday of fighting in the south, Shiite Muslim rebels said that battles were continuing in Basra and Karbala, two cities earlier said to be under government control, and official Iranian television said that there were fresh battles in An Najaf, a major Shiite shrine, but the U.S. analysts said it was unlikely that rebels could gain the initiative in the region even if pockets of rebellion flared.

These analysts also said they had heard reports that Mr. Hussein's regime had put troops on street corners in Baghdad, but they could not confirm serious strife in the city. There were no new reports of violent rebellion in the capital, which Western journalists were ordered to leave last week.

But in the Kurdish northern part of Iraq, the U.S. analysts said, the government has lost control of large areas and has been rushing in reinforcements. They said that the Kurdish rebels had not made inroads in the major northern city of Mosul, as has been claimed, but had done so in the oil center of Kirkuk.

The Kurds, who have been fighting for decades for greater autonomy in the large mountainous region known as Iraqi Kurdistan, announced in Damascus that they

had ousted Iraqi troops from all key points along the border with Turkey, and were fighting inside Kirkuk. The rebels claim to control about 75 percent of the north.

[Kurdish rebels took over Iraq's main border crossing point with Turkey on Friday, Reuters reported from Ninawa. Witnesses at the Habur River near Cizre in southern Turkey said that the rebels hauled down the Iraqi flag on the bridge between the two countries and hoisted a red and green flag of their own. No resistance was reported.]

[Teheran radio said that in southern Iraq, rebels beat back a tank assault by government loyalists advancing on Basra. The rebels destroyed 15 tanks advancing from the south, the radio said.]

Syrian residents along the Iraqi border said they could clearly see Kurdish guerrillas in positions on the Iraqi side of the Tigris River, which briefly forms the frontier in the extreme north near Turkey.

Kurdish guerrillas, who also claim control of more than 320 kilometers (200 miles) of the Iranian-Iraqi border south from the Turkish frontier to the city of Khaniqin, said they had captured the headquarters of the Iraqi Army 5th Corps between the cities of Mosul and Arbil.

Phones Out of Order

Three weeks after the U.S.-led coalition drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait, residents of Baghdad still cannot use their telephones to make internal or external calls, Agence France-Presse reported from Baghdad.

Officials said in recent statements that they could not say when the city's six telecommunication centers would again be operational.

Baghdad's more than 4 million inhabitants receive but a trickle of running water, while only a few residential neighborhoods have electricity.

Residents also run the risk of falling ill to diseases like cholera and typhoid despite efforts by municipal workers to pump stagnant water from the streets, where the sewage system has collapsed.

It was announced earlier this week that teams had begun repairing three key bridges across the Tigris River in the capital that were destroyed in allied raids.

The Oil Ministry announced Friday that it would start distributing gasoline ration cards to Baghdad motorists on Sunday, Reuters reported.



The U.S. commerce secretary, Robert A. Mosbacher, wearing a mask to protect against oil-fume smoke in Kuwait on Friday.

Kuwait Trip Raises a Storm

By Gary Lee
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Twelve members of Congress who voted to authorize the use of force in the Gulf ignored the objections of the House speaker and left for their own visit to the region, their expenses paid — at Kuwait's request — by a corporation seeking to do business in Kuwait.

A spokesman for Thomas S. Foley, Democrat of Washington, the speaker, said Mr. Foley objected strongly to the trip during a meeting last week. The House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct had told the congressmen they could not accept a trip paid for by a foreign government, and Mr. Foley expressed concern that even U.S. corporate sponsorship might not justify the trip.

The spokesman said Mr. Foley thought corporate funding would be only superficial cover for a trip improperly financed by Kuwait. The speaker "blew up," a Democrat at the meeting said.

The spokesman said Mr. Foley had "expressed his views strongly and clearly."

"I don't think anybody left with any doubt about how strongly he objected."

The 10 Republicans and two Democrats, all of whom voted Jan. 12 for a Bush administration resolution authorizing the use of force in the Gulf, were invited by the Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States, Saud Nasir Sabah, after Kuwait was retaken. They left Washington on Thursday, and their expenses were paid by the Fluor Corp., based in Irvine, California, a spokeswoman there said.

Secretary of Commerce Robert A. Mosbacher also went along on the trip, representing the Bush administration. His expenses were paid for by the Kuwaiti government under a department rule that allows such trips if they facilitate the work of the department.

The four-day visit appeared to be Kuwait's way of thanking its supporters in Congress and to others assisting in rebuilding the country. Mr. Sabah traveled with the delegation, and his office did not respond in telephone calls.

Fluor, a large construction company, is bidding for Kuwaiti contracts to help restore oil installations and refineries, the company spokeswoman said. She said company executives had held several discussions with Mr. Sabah about a possible role in reconstruction before he proposed on Tuesday that Fluor sponsor the congressmen's trip.

Among others on the trip were senior executives from AT&T and Dresser Industries, an oil services company, and other companies involved in reconstructing Kuwait.

When Mr. Sabah first issued the invitation earlier this month, the committee on official conduct told the members that congressional rules barred travel to a foreign country under the sponsorship of a foreign government, according to a committee spokesman.

Kuwait then asked the National Council on Arab-American Relations to organize American corporate sponsorship for the trip, said Ron Cathell, a council spokesman.

Republicans included are: Elton Gallegly (California), W. Curtis Weldon (Pennsylvania), John R. Kasich (Ohio), Helen Delich Bentley (Maryland), Robert K. Dornan (California), Bill Paxon (New York), Ronald K. Machtley (Rhode Island), Michael G. Oxley (Ohio), Chalmers P. Wylie (Ohio), and James M. Inhofe (Oklahoma). Democrats are Charles J. Luken (Ohio) and Pete Geren (Texas).

Pentagon Concludes Reserves Aren't Battle-Ready

By John H. Cushman Jr.
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. military leaders have concluded that the National Guard and the reserves cannot be sent quickly into combat alongside full-time soldiers, an approach the army had long contemplated but could not carry out in the rapid mobilization for the Gulf war.

The change in policy does not mean that reservists will not be

used in future combat, Pentagon officials said, but it is an admission that the army cannot count on part-time soldiers to flesh out the airborne, helicopter and tank divisions earmarked for rapid deployment into war zones.

In the mobilization for the Gulf war, the army called up three brigades of National Guard troops, totaling about 14,000 soldiers, that were theoretically supposed to link up with active duty divisions.

But those troops, who were sent to training camps in the United States, were never deployed alongside the regular army units that were sent into combat last month.

Instead, active-duty units took on their assignments in the Gulf region.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said recently that the idea of linking up reserve units with regular army divisions and sending them into combat to fight as a team at

the very outset of hostilities was "not a good one."

He suggested that in the future reservists would continue to play important roles farther from the front lines.

Such duties would include driving delivery trucks and staffing medical and maintenance bases in rear areas, the kind of jobs that were handled by tens of thousands of reservists in the Gulf war.

Mr. Cheney's comments echoed what many military officials had been saying even before the six-month mobilization for war: that a 1973 policy called the "total force concept," in which National Guard and reserve units would be used to bolster regular units, was imperfect, at least to the extent that it called on reservists to take the field quickly in a crisis.

As the mobilization progressed, in reports sent to Congress in September and December, the Pentagon pointed out that it might not be wise to assign reservists to complement rapid-deployment forces like those that moved first to the Gulf.

Army National Guard and reserve brigades, the reports said, "often need additional training before they can be employed in combat."

Pentagon officials and military experts on Capitol Hill said it was more important than ever to reconsider how to use reservists now that the Pentagon planned to eliminate 100,000 regular troops annually for five years, reducing the military from 2.1 million to 1.6 million active personnel.

The question is whether reservists, including National Guard troops, can realistically be asked to respond as quickly and fight as capably as regular troops who train year-round.

The answer, Mr. Cheney's remarks in an Los Angeles Times interview suggested, is that they cannot.

"We ought to use the Guard combat units as a second or third echelon that you call up and deploy over a longer period of time," he was quoted as saying.

Nuclear Puzzle: Where Is Iraq's Uranium?

New York Times Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York — The United Nations agency charged with halting the spread of nuclear weapons has been unable to find out what happened to the weapons-grade enriched uranium in the Iraqi nuclear research installations that the United States destroyed at the start of the war.

The director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Hans Martin Blix, has written twice to the Iraqi author-

ities since the allied bombardment started, asking for information about the 50 pounds (about 23 kilograms) of highly enriched uranium fuel in the Tuwaitha nuclear research station near Baghdad. He has received no reply so far, officials say.

Many experts on nuclear proliferation who suspect President Saddam Hussein of harboring nuclear ambitions have expressed fears that Iraq might have removed that and other dangerous material to safety

before the bombing began and might therefore still be able to make crude atomic bombs.

In a statement at a meeting of Business Executives for National Security last month, Paul Leventhal of the Nuclear Control Institute, a group in Washington that studies nuclear security issues, called it "unrealistic and imprudent" to assume that Mr. Hussein had not hidden materials used in his "decade-old nuclear weapons program" before the war started.

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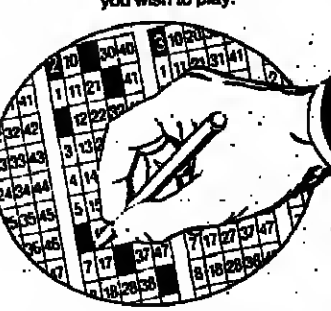
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The Stormin' Norman Show

By Randall Rothenberg
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — He riveted them in Riyadh and wowed them in Washington, and now every American can see him, witness his withering scorn and watch him point to charts.

Coming to a video store near you, it's General H. Norman "Stormin' Norman" Schwarzkopf in "The Briefing" — co-starring The Reporters.

Thanks to ABC News and the entrepreneurial instincts of MPI Home Video, the news conference on Feb. 27 at which the general described how the allied forces won the Gulf war has come out on videotape. In less than two weeks, video stores have ordered 80,000 copies.

For a suggested retail price of \$19.98, VCR owners can recall these now-legendary moments from the hourlong briefing conducted in Riyadh:

- General Schwarzkopf's praise of President George Bush for letting him "fight this war exactly as it should have been fought."

- His declaration that "the loss of one human life is intolerable to any of us who are in the military."

- The famous "Hah!" — the general's retort when he was asked about Saddam Hussein's strategic prowess.

The critics raved. "A performance as spellbinding as the finest of Hamlets," wrote Tom Shales in The Washington Post. "By far the most informa-

tive briefing" to come out of the war, said Bob Cain, a CNN anchor.

The existence of the tape, which is called "Schwarzkopf: How the War Was Won," and subtitled "The Briefing," was the inspiration of Waleed Ali, the chief executive of MPI Home Video, a company in Oak Forest, Illinois, that markets videotape versions of other ABC News programs, including "Nightline." Two days after the briefing, Mr. Ali called ABC to suggest putting it on tape.

With the network's agreement, he designed and ordered the videotape box — a photograph of General Schwarzkopf with his troops — and called his regular network of stores for orders. ABC will receive a royalty from each tape sold, although the amount has not been disclosed. The general will apparently receive nothing.

Jaffer Ali, Waleed Ali's brother and the vice president for marketing at MPI, said, "It's a phenomenon — that's what it is, a phenomenon."

Although confident, even jubilant, about the preliminary reception for the tape, which is hitting the shelves this week, Jaffer Ali, an American of Palestinian descent, also noted an irony in his brother's notion. "We have a lot of family all over the Middle East," he said. "I don't think we shared in the euphoria of pummeling a Third World nation. So maybe it is a little ironic that we're distributing this videocassette."

SERB: President Resigns

(Continued from page 1)

necessary and in harmony with my conscience."

Mr. Jovic had served as president since May 1990.

A Noncommunist Leader

The changeover to Mr. Mesic means that Yugoslavia will be headed for the first time by a non-communist president, Reuters reported from Belgrade.

It also means that Serbia, the largest republic, is handing over power to its historical rival, Croatia.

In announcing his takeover of the post on Studio B, an independent television service, Mr. Mesic said, "I am vice president performing the function of the president."

Mr. Mesic, a former political prisoner, said he did not consider Mr. Jovic's resignation a surprise given the president's failure to push through his proposal for a crackdown by the army.

"We voted and he remained in the minority," Mr. Mesic said.

He said there were also "more profound reasons" for Mr. Jovic's resignation, adding, "He is a moral person. The presidency decided to call tanks into the streets of Belgrade and he voted for that. A moral person has to take that into account."

Mr. Jovic, in his announcement, warned that civil war was looming. "The country is at a critical stage of disintegration," he said. He spoke of a systematic campaign by separatist elements that "threatens to lead us into direct interethnic conflicts and civil war."

He was referring to the secessionist moves of Slovenia and Croatia, the most Westernized republics.

Yugoslavia has been torn by divisions among its many ethnic groups since it was created in 1918. The crisis has worsened since free elections last year that ended 45 years of Communist rule in all republics except Serbia and Montenegro.



IRON LADY GREETES THE LEATHERNECKS — Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain waving as she poses for a photograph with a group of 400 U.S. Marines in advanced infantry training during her visit to Camp Pendleton, California.

IRAQ: U.S. Troops Reclaim Parts of Territory in Euphrates Valley

(Continued from page 1)

behavior the international community would like to see Iraq exhibiting," said Bob Hall, a Pentagon spokesman.

"Iraq has to convince the world that its designs, both against the international community and its own population, are not military and aggressive," he said.

Mr. Hall said the U.S. military units were maintaining a presence in Iraq in part to provide "an incentive for the Iraqis to meet the UN

standards" under which a permanent cease-fire would take effect.

"I think it makes common sense that we are not going to walk away from a situation having accomplished what we have accomplished and let it be reversed," he said.

The reluctance of Mr. Hussein's government to embrace remaining United Nations resolutions addressing its occupation of Kuwait has stirred U.S. debate about the wisdom of having called off hostilities when it did.

"I think the Bush administration

was premature in calling the cease-

fire at a time when it was so clear that the Iraqi troops were so badly beaten and there was so little likelihood they could recommence hostilities," said Trevor DuPuy, a retired army colonel.

Mr. DuPuy said that there is ample historical precedent for a victorious force's maintaining military pressure over a defeated power to ensure the loser's compliance with cease-fire terms.

On other occasions, however, continued military pressure has re-

sulted in a resumption of hostilities.

A Pentagon official said, however, that the reoccupation of the Euphrates valley territory also appeared to correct a hasty-than-expected rearward movement by U.S. military commanders.

American commanders have been eager, following their victory, to reposition themselves in areas that are closer to their supplies, where land mines and unexploded bombs do not pose daily threats to U.S. soldiers, the official said.

TALKS: Problems Over Arms Control Treaties Delay U.S.-Soviet Summit

(Continued from page 1)

test and this opens reliable prospects for future developments."

Despite this spirit of cooperation, Mr. Baker, reflecting the desire of the Bush administration to hedge some of its bets on the Gorbachev government, took another step Friday night toward broadening American contacts with the leaders of various Soviet republics and cities by being host at a dinner for them at the U.S. ambassador's residence.

The list of attendees included the president of Georgia, the prime ministers of Armenia and Kirghizia, and the leaders of Moscow and Leningrad. Alexander N. Yakovlev, a former adviser to Mr. Gorbachev, and Stanislav S. Shata-

lin, once Mr. Gorbachev's main economic adviser, also attended.

Boris N. Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Republic and Mr. Gorbachev's political rival, was invited, but he declined and sent a representative instead.

Whether U.S.-Soviet cooperation will really persist in the Gulf and Middle East could depend upon how events unfold in Iraq. The Bush administration appears increasingly interested in forcing the downfall of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq by pressuring him not to use chemical weapons, his air force or helicopter gunships to put down the mounting insurrections against his government.

Mr. Bessmertnykh, when asked for his attitude on this, seemed to

indicate that the Soviet Union was uncomfortable with anything that smacked of U.S. efforts to use its military position in the Gulf to change the Iraqi government.

But with the Gulf crisis now receding in importance, the quality of U.S.-Soviet relations will again be largely measured by the yardstick of arms control agreements, where the two sides seemed increasingly unable to break their deadlocks.

In February 1990, during a visit by Mr. Baker to Moscow, the two sides announced that they had overcome their last major obstacles to a START treaty — and all that was left were largely "technical details." Yet, 13 months later, many of those details remain unresolved. The main differences remain over how to verify the treaty, a

critical aspect for the Bush administration if it hopes to get the pact ratified by the Senate.

Even more of a problem, said American officials, was the fact that in November the United States, the Soviet Union and 20 other NATO and Warsaw Pact nations signed a treaty reducing conventional forces in Europe. After the signing, the Soviet military insisted on excluding three naval infantry divisions, and their weapons, from the treaty's limitations on the grounds that they were involved in shore defenses.

Mr. Baker has told Congress that President George Bush would not submit that treaty for Senate ratification until the Soviets drop this demand.

WARN: U.S. Strategy Is to Keep Hussein Off Balance

(Continued from page 1)

Iraq's use of helicopter gunships to quell the rebellion in many Iraqi cities "does make it very, very complicated in terms of bringing about a final cease-fire."

The statements of administration spokesmen on Thursday were vague about what conditions Iraq must meet before the United States withdraws.

A Pentagon spokesman, Bob Hall, said: "There's going to be a judgment that the president will have to make with the coalition partners on when Iraq fulfills the UN requirements, meets the conditions that we laid down, and when we're able to say this is a settled situation that we can walk away from. We want to have that before we sign a permanent cease-fire."

U.S. forces in Iraq represent the implicit threat that they could be used to bring down Mr. Hussein, administration officials said. But there is a far greater interest among Mr. Bush's senior advisers in quickly bringing American troops home for domestic political reasons and leaving the image of the allied victory untarnished.

"I want to get our troops home," Mr. Bush said Thursday. "I want to bring them home, but I'd like to have some security arrangements in place."

Administration officials said strong resistance remains in the Pentagon and the State Department to expanding U.S. war objec-

tives in a way that might mire American forces in a struggle to control a post-Hussein Iraq.

Pressure in the Security Council to consolidate the cease-fire and pave the way for an American withdrawal also runs stronger than Arab concerns that Mr. Hussein should be dealt with now, a White House official said.

Mr. Mitterrand alluded to the possibility of further allied action in the name of the Security Council. If international concern about the unrest in Iraq persists, Mr. Mitterrand said, "then, we'll try to help, and we'll do whatever the Security Council decides."

In private, administration officials say they cannot really oppose Mr. Hussein's attempts at restoring order, even though Mr. Bush publicly continues to criticize the use of helicopters to do it.

"You want him to be overthrown, but at the same time you can't use the fact that he's trying to preserve the integrity of his country against him," an official said. Bush administration officials said that they were "trying to make it as hard as we can for him" through public encouragement to the opposition and warnings against repression.

While there appears to be no formal re-evaluation of allied war objectives inside the government, some administration officials say there is unofficial interagency discussion of U.S. options if the president decides to take steps to end Mr. Hussein's rule.

Mr. Bush told a reporter that if Mr. Hussein were toppled, he would not automatically be replaced by a Shiite fundamentalist government whose rule might be even more hostile toward its neighbors and the West.

"Perhaps there is something that's a little more positive than either of those alternatives; let's hope so," Mr. Bush said.

A change in U.S. or UN policy that sought the removal of Mr. Hussein from power would most likely require the use of American forces to seize the Iraqi capital and then to invite opposition forces to construct a new government, administration officials said.

Such a course, regarded in almost every quarter of the government as highly risky, would threaten some neighbors such as Iran and perhaps provoke the revolutionary regime in Tehran to back an Islamic fundamentalist grab for power in Iraq, where Shiite Muslims represent a majority of the population.

Soviet Pilots Sacrifice Lives

Reuters

MOSCOW — Two Soviet pilots were killed after they struggled to keep their plummeting fighter plane from crashing into a village in northern Siberia, Tass said Friday. "They succeeded, but only at the cost of their lives," Tass said.

Cambodia Troops Near Guerrilla Stronghold

The Associated Press

BANGKOK — Cambodian troops, backed by artillery and tanks, have pushed to within 13 kilometers of a guerrilla stronghold in western Cambodia, a guerrilla spokesman said Friday.

About 6,000 government troops have been attacking Thmar Puok, the center of the zone controlled by the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, said Ok Serri Sophaek, a spokesman for the front. About 7,500 guerrillas are defending, he said.

Shouldn't you be reading commentary like this — regularly?

From Israel, a More Cautious View of the Desert Storm

By Jim Hoagland

TEL AVIV — Desert warfare is a subject that Israeli generals actually teach. Now, with the war in the Gulf, they are studying it through the lessons of Operation Desert Storm and assessing what America's military might learn from it. Israel's military officials say that there is much to be learned from the coalition victory over Saddam Hussein's army. But they are more interested than many in the West in desert warfare, and they are looking at the battle of the Euphrates and the Tigris with a keen eye. "We are looking at the battle of the Euphrates and the Tigris with a keen eye," they say. "We are looking at the battle of the Euphrates and the Tigris with a keen eye."

Europe '96: A New Look, The Same Old Disarray

By William Safire

LONDON — For a country, long known for its political stability, Europe is in a state of disarray. The European Union is facing a series of challenges that threaten its unity. The European Union is facing a series of challenges that threaten its unity. The European Union is facing a series of challenges that threaten its unity. The European Union is facing a series of challenges that threaten its unity. The European Union is facing a series of challenges that threaten its unity.

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THE GREEK SPIRIT

سكرا من الامل

ART

Saturday-Sunday,
March 16-17, 1991
Page 8

The Ultimate Art Market

Maastricht Fair Rich in Novelty, Even Old Masters

International Herald Tribune
MAASTRICHT, the Netherlands — No one has yet explained the magic mix that transforms an art fair from a commercial proposition into a gripping show. The European Fine Art Fair this week, ending Sunday, suggests that a sense of discovery is the main ingredient. There is nothing like surprise to jolt you to

SOURIN MELIKIAN

attention as you wind your way among the stands of 134 exhibitors spread over an area big enough for three football fields.

This year the organizers succeeded in achieving novelty in a field where it is becoming increasingly difficult — Old Masters. It is quite a feat to come up with a major picture, hitherto unrecorded, by the great Caravaggio master Hendrick Terbrugghen. Credit for this goes to Charles Roelofs of Amsterdam, the leading dealer in Dutch painting.

Only a few Terbrugghens have turned up since Benedict Nicolson published his epoch-making monograph on the artist in 1958. Fewer still have found general acceptance, as is the case with this one, apparently painted in 1624.

The subject is elusive. A woman enveloped in a white drape is seen three-quarters, her head slightly tilted to the right as she gazes in sorrowful rapture at some invisible point above the viewer's head. She steadies with one hand the shaft of a wooden cross lying across her lap as she holds up a candle that emits an eerie light. A second source of candlelight, higher up at left, creates a complex chiaroscuro, halfway between Caravaggio and Georges de La Tour. It is a compelling sight even to those who may not like the slightly lustrous touch, (The Dutch art historian Albert Blankert has recorded the discovery in a monograph published on the occasion of the fair).

A few steps away, the Galerie Sancti Lucas of Vienna displays an even more surprising painting. Lost sight of since 1926, "Satan Sowing Deeds" has a Brueghelian whiff, with its receding blue hills in the distance and its lumpy Flemish peasantry in the foreground. It is the work of the little-known Pieter Baltens, who is now recognized as the master of Pieter Brueghel the Elder.

The composition is as strange as the subject

which, Stephen J. Kostyhin notes in a monograph on the picture, is an "episode from the parable of the weeds among the wheat." A huge clump of trees springs up in the middle of the picture with a blue landscape developing right and left in the distance so that the eye is distracted from the scene in the foreground. Here, Satan, identified by the long pointed tail that his peasant garb fails to conceal, is sowing in a kind of hopping movement suggestive of evil glee, while peasants are fast asleep in slightly grotesque postures.

Less than 20 works by Baltens are known. Kostyhin writes in his essay, unfortunately so packed with unnecessary detail that few readers are likely to plow their way through to the end. Not surprisingly this one elicited instant response from the museum world. The \$1.5 million picture has been reserved by a German institution.

A similar reaction was triggered by Jules Noël's view of the Breton coast, which hangs in the stand of Bruno Meissner. Painted in 1840, the large landscape, 103.5 by 85.5 centimeters (about 40 by 33 inches), incorporates the legacy of Dutch 17th century painting, but has that intense light and crispness in detail sometimes found at that period, from Georges Michel to Franz Xaver Winterhalter. Never reproduced until it appeared at the fair, it is by far the finest Noël seen in the market in the last two decades or so. At \$150,000 the Niedersächsisches Landesmuseum in Hannover didn't miss.

Add to the stunning rarities seen for the first time within memory a sprinkling of pictures with irresistible charm. Johnny van Haften of London shows a view of an Amsterdam canal, the Kloveniersburgwal, that has not dramatically changed since Gerrit Berckheyde painted it in 1683. It is an image of silent stillness in transparent light, never reproduced since its last public appearance at the Royal Academy in 1879.

Noortman of Maastricht and London came up with another unpublished masterpiece, Harman Steenwyck's still life in shades of pale blue, pearl gray, light yellow and dabs of salmon pink. It sold forthwith for 650,000 guilders, about \$370,000. On the stand of De Boer, the Amsterdam dealer, a mid-16th century German picture has a kind of gentle weirdness. "The Animals of the Night" — an owl perched on the head of a cat and a bat flapping its wings near a

musky from a species that, a zoologist confirmed, comes out only at night — is now attributed to Ludger Tom Ring. It was last seen in 1936 — in the same De Boer Gallery.

More than pictures however, it is the novelty of some of the objects d'art that give Maastricht its distinctive mark. Some of the most fascinating objects are to be seen on the stands of little-known dealers with limited means and wonderful eyes, to whom the fair owes much of its lure.

AT his stand, Patrick Reijgersberg of Haarlem displays a series of objects that have been recovered from the salt on the site of a southern Dutch village submerged by the sea in 1531. A small group of the Virgin and Child in lead-pewter alloy is a replica of some large-size carving, such as those to which medieval pilgrims paid their devotions. With its slight smile hovering on its closed lips, the Virgin is a masterpiece in miniature.

Retrieved last year, it solves the riddle of an identical enthroned figure of a woman without the child found in the River Avon in 1986. This was shown at the Royal Academy in the Chivalry Age exhibition the following year. It was then thought to be a queen. It can now be seen to be the enthroned Virgin wearing her crown as the queen of the world. From the same village comes a whole group of pilgrim badges — cut out lead silhouettes such as the 15th century image of St. Michael raising his banner, one of the largest pilgrim badges in existence (reproduced for the first time on this page).

A leather purse was also found in the salt with a beautiful brown patination that brings out the relief of three lines of Gothic calligraphy. It shows signs of sharp ruting with a blade at the top. Reijgersberg says it must have been ripped off some traveler by highwaymen and then thrown away. The 15th century piece, immensely rare, may not be of earthshaking importance at \$6,500, but it is a piece laden with evocations from a tormented past.

This is even truer of a carved figure of a kneeling monk — yet another unrecorded rarity in Reijgersberg's stand. A marionette fur cape thrown over the long robe shows the man to have belonged to one of the "free" orders, not recognized by the church, which mushroomed in the 15th century on the eve of the Protestant outbreak. It has been acquired by the largest



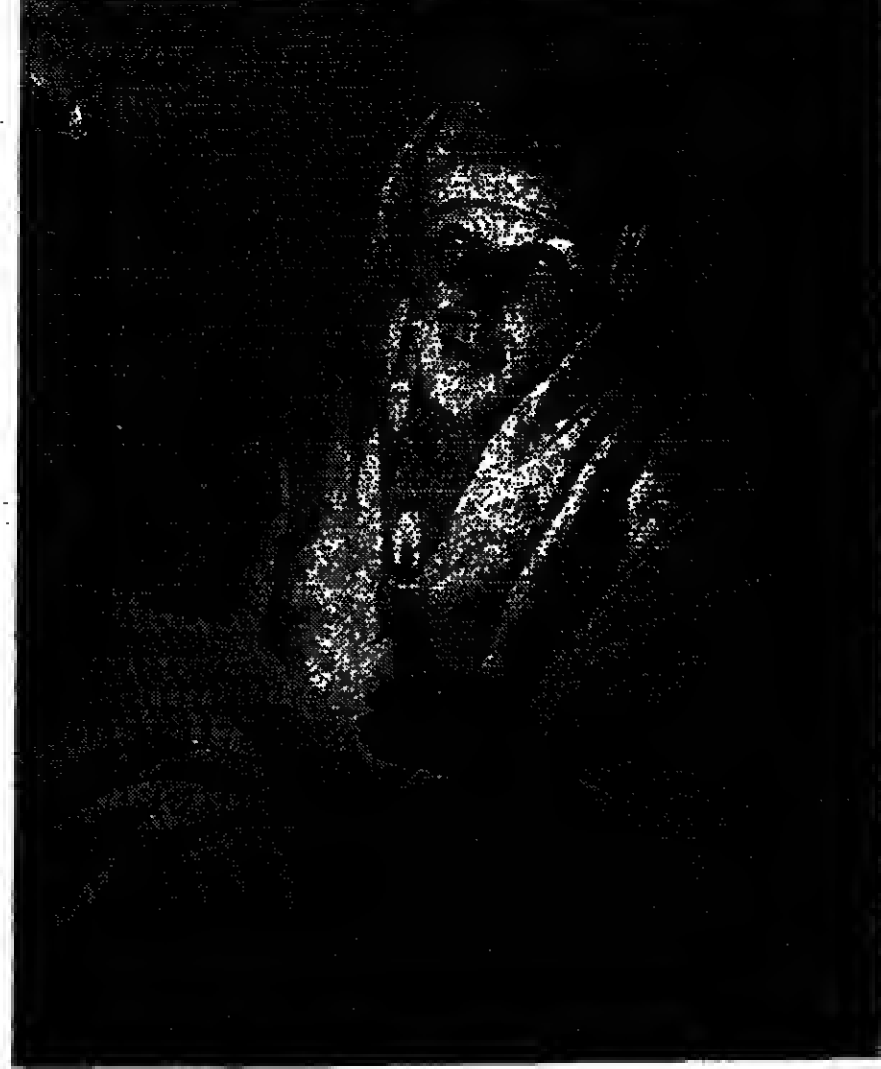
Pilgrim badge retrieved from a submerged Dutch village and, right, newly found Terbrugghen painting.

museum of religious art in the Netherlands, the Rijksmuseum Catharine Convent in Utrecht. At about 20,000 guilders, it was affordable even to the impoverished institution.

Whenever I visited it, collectors kept coming in and out of the Reijgersberg's stand. At one point, on Wednesday, Julien Stock, the sharp-eyed director of the Old Masters department at Sotheby's, could be seen slipping out, fondling a late-16th century bronze plaque suggestive of Western Jannitzer's manner. The asking price was around 5,000 guilders. If it should turn out to be accepted as the work of Jannitzer himself, the bargain would be substantial.

Similar activity was going on in the stand of Egidine Amkreutz of Maastricht, a chemical engineer who taught at the University of Aachen for 10 years before turning to his great love, Buddhist art from the Far East, in a professional capacity. His interests now extend to China — "from the green patina of Khmer bronzes I found my way into the green glaze of Han pottery." The enthusiasm of people like him is catching. Within minutes of the opening, Amkreutz had sold a couple of Ming finery figures in polychrome enamels to a Belgian architect who otherwise goes in for contemporary art.

A gynecologist, also Belgian, whom Amkreutz describes as a great collector of religious



sculpture from Western Europe, bought a large bronze head of a Buddha, which the dealer dates to the 15th century. It is in the smaller pieces that Amkreutz reveals himself as a collector at heart. A wonderful palanquin ring cast in bronze with a stylized snarling mask from 13th century Cambodia is typically a collector's choice. Neither showy nor expensive — the price is in the area of \$4,000 — it is just a lovely (and unpublished) object. Works such as these have largely contributed to the reputation of the Maastricht as a place to go for those who want to buy.

IN the course of three days in Maastricht, I kept running into collectors from all over the world who had just acquired something they were complacently contemplating. James Lightburn, an American lawyer based in Paris who collects Nahuatl painting, found a pastel by Kar Xavier-Roussel in a stand shared by two young Englishmen, Richard and Philip of Ladybury Road in London, who deals in Old Master drawings and small sculpture, and Rupert Otten of Walsley Fine Arts. In addition to the pastel, Otten sold him a crayon drawing of a woman in the mode, signed with initials, that he had tucked away in a cupboard — he was asked to display the drawing, almost too cheap at \$4,000. In Peter Tillou's stand, I met a gleeful Jerome Zwager,

the Long Island collector of Renaissance and Baroque art, pleased with his \$5,000 giant ironwork key dated 1737 — presumably made as a locksmith's sign — and his 17th century German stockmaker's box in fruitwood inlaid with bone.

Throughout, there was a feverish bustle around the objects, with a more moderate display of interest in the painting. There are still too many third-rate northern landscapes, marines and still lifes. The Contemporary section, which neither grips nor fits, is highly dispensable — no fair is perfect. But this one works. Compared with the auction world, where the dearth of goods is getting painfully apparent, it gives a feeling of profusion matched by a welcome lack of triumphant propaganda.

The apex was probably reached by Bernard Blondeel of Antwerp, whose understated way of referring to his works of art is hard to match. The walls of his stand were hung with some of the most extraordinary tapestries from Brussels and Tournai that have been seen in years. One was sold to a French collector for 4 million French francs (about \$750,000). Another, from Brussels, c. 1505, the greatest by far, is likely to find its way into a museum sometime soon. With a few strategically placed discoveries, by design or by accident, the trade has just made yet another score in its running battle with the auction house.

Scarred Works From Romania

By Roderick Conway Morris

VENICE — That the exhibition "European Masterpieces From Romania" is taking place at all is something of a miracle. It is only due to both the bravery of the staff and sheer luck that the National Art Museum in Bucharest did not share the fate of the National Library, which was gutted during the uprising of December 1989, reducing to ashes most of its priceless collection of manuscripts and books.

As it is, three Italian canvases on show are riddled with ragged rips and bullet holes as a result of the fighting, and a luminous, 15th century, Sicilian "Madonna and Child" on a wooden panel was split in half in the mayhem. Early, two of the damaged paintings, "Samson

Lorenzo Lotto wound up painting the numbers on beds in a charity hospital.

Destroying the Temple" and "Hercules' Fight With the Centaur Nessus," depict scenes of extreme violence, the latter showing with disturbing realism the moment when the Greek hero is about to club the skull of his vanquished and screaming opponent. All four of these damaged works are to be repaired and restored in Venice, while other works, similarly lacerated, have been sent for treatment by the experts at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, California.

Romania only came into being as a modern state during the last century, but a number of energetic and discriminating Romanian connoisseurs were quick to make their appearance. These included the writer and statesman Mihail Kogalniceanu, who built up a superb collection of Old Masters, from Bellini and Titian to Rembrandt and van Dyck, only to be forced by financial difficulties to sell them off in 1887.

Fortunately for Romania, however, Carol I, of the Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen line, elected regent by the Romanian princes in 1856, and crowned in 1881, was an ardent and knowledgeable lover of the fine arts. "Art and politics compete for primacy in the king's heart," he wrote in his diary.

Carol had studied at Bonn University under Anton Springer, whose manual of the history of art was the bible of German art-history students until well into the 20th century. Carol remained in close contact with his old professor, invited him to Romania, and built up his own private collection, greatly expanded in 1879 when he acquired many pictures from the collection of Felix Bamberg. It was this royal collection, later combined with five smaller ones, that forms the corpus of Romania's National Museum.

WITH the exception of one Italian work and of the El Greco, which were shown in Paris in 1927, none of the 64 pictures in the exhibition, which runs until June 2 in the Doge's Palace, has traveled abroad since coming into Romanian possession. The show ranges from the Italian and German 15th century, through the Spanish 16th century, the Flemish and Dutch 17th century, to the French 18th and 19th centuries. The quality is uneven, but there



Lorenzo Lotto's "St. Jerome," in Venice exhibition.

are many striking works and a number of exceptional exhibits. Major pictures include a Titian portrait and "Annunciation," a Lorenzo Lotto, a Rubens, two by Jacob Jordaens, and a "Venus and Cupid" by Lucas Cranach the Elder.

There are many others that, although one hesitates to call them masterpieces, are nevertheless remarkable. Among these are a haunting 15th-century "Madonna and Child" by Boccaccio Boccaccio of Cremona, in which the arrangement of the figures, especially the tilt of the Virgin's head, is strongly Byzantine, while the portraiture and the handling of the lime, dark-green, and scarlet drapery is thoroughly quattrocento. The picture shows strongly but not slavishly the influence of Giovanni Bellini, and brilliantly conveys an atmosphere of innocence and stillness.

Or again, there is a "St. Catherine" by Barbara Loughi that shows the martyr, a beautiful, tender complexioned, elegantly dressed young woman, confronting the onlooker with a frank and unwavering regard, with one soft hand drawing a veil over her breast, the other resting lightly, almost casually, on the torture wheel, on which one of the rose-thorn-shaped steel books glints with cold, metallic menace.

The organizers have chosen for the exhibition poster Lorenzo Lotto's "St. Jerome in the Desert." Here, the aged prophet is seen in a wonderfully realized Italian landscape, gripping a stone with which to beat his breast in penitence, while from a distance, amid the trees, a venerable guardian lion looks on. Lotto (c. 1480-1556) was one of the finest artists, yet the saddest, of Renaissance Venice. Despairing at Titian's overbearing dominance of the artistic scene, Lotto abandoned his native city, after which, despite prodigious talent, hard work and steady output, he suffered almost continual poverty and mental anguish. One of his last commissions was to paint the numbers on beds in the charity hospital where he came to rest.

St. Jerome was a highly intelligent, emotional, complex and contradictory character, not perhaps unlike Lotto himself, who depicts this saint so powerfully. One cannot think of a more appropriate symbol for Romania today, a land scarred with suffering, racked by uncertainty, but not without hope.

Roderick Conway Morris, a writer based in Venice, is the author of "Jem: Memoirs of an Ottoman Secret Agent."

ECONOMIC

Making Success
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MARKET DIARY

Stocks Edge Lower
As Contracts Expire

NEW YORK — Stocks closed lower Friday in very heavy trading on the New York Stock Exchange, as a late surge of buying tied to "triple-witching hour" expirations was unable to entirely offset downward pressure caused by weakness in the bond market.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which fell 2.97 Thursday, lost 3.96 to close at 2,948.27.

Among broader market gauges, the New York Stock Exchange composite index fell 0.20 to 204.08, and the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index inched up 0.09 to 373.59.

Declines led advances by about 2 to 1. Volume totaled 237.66 million shares, compared with 231.01 million Thursday.

About 50 million shares traded in the last hour and 70 million in the first hour as various stock-index futures, index options and stock options expired, usual behavior for "triple-witching hour" sessions.

The sessions also often result in price volatility, especially at the

opening and the close. With about an hour of trading to go, the Dow was down about 25 points, pressured by profit-taking and by weakness in the bond market.

Exxon was the most active issue, up 1/4 to 57 1/4. GTE followed, down 1/4 to 32 1/4. An analyst cut his rating on the stock, which surged Thursday after closing its \$6.6 billion merger with Contel in the telecommunications industry.

Laidlaw Class B was third, down 1/4 to 12 1/4. Among the other blue chips, AT&T lost 1/4 to 33 1/4, IBM fell 1/4 to 126 1/4, Philip Morris eased 1/4 to 68 1/4 and General Electric added 1/4 to 68 1/4.

Prices fell in active trading on the American Stock Exchange. The Amex Market Value index lost 2.77 to 352.63. Declines led advances about 3-2. The price of an average share was off 9 cents. Volume totaled 13.79 million shares, after 14.76 million Thursday.

The National Association of Securities Dealers composite index fell 1.50 to 466.29.

DOLLAR: U.S. Currency Surges

(Continued from first finance page) David Jones of Aubrey Lansdon Co., a Wall Street bond firm, said the Fed "has enough positive signals in the economy and no compelling reason to ease right now." Furthermore, he and others point-

ed out that the Federal Open Market Committee, which next meets on March 26 to set interest rates, is sufficiently divided to prevent another decisive move, such as lowering the discount rate.

Growth in M2 money supply meanwhile has picked up to the midpoint of the Fed's target range of 2.5 to 6.5 percent, and Chairman Alan Greenspan has told Congress that he spies at least anecdotal signs of recovery.

It is such signs that helped push

up the stock market this week and helped serve as a magnet to pull money out of the market. Dealers said that holders of Germany's currency have become anxious over political uncertainty in Eastern Europe — from street demonstrations in Yugoslavia to a referendum Sunday in the Soviet Union.

The dollar also got a safe-haven lift from news that U.S. troops were moving back into positions in Iraq. "It's like a runaway train," said Albert Soria, chief foreign exchange dealer for Kansai-Cook-Paniki Bank. "The market figures that the elections in Russia have ended in disaster, that the recession will be over any day now, and that the PPI will stop the Fed from easing and keep interest rates up."

"What I'm afraid of," he added, "is that we're getting ahead of ourselves."

PESETA: Lower Spanish Rate Eases Way for Italy, Britain and France

(Continued from first finance page) his reluctance to reduce rates further.

"We have taken an important step," he said. Countries whose currencies are in the bottom part of the ERM grid, he added, "can also act."

Nigel Readell, chief European economist at James Capel & Co., said, "It's somewhat perverse that the French should be constrained by the peseta." He noted that the

French economy had made huge strides toward German standards of performance.

Economists said the problem was temporary, reflecting not only the 4.25 percentage-point gap between French and Spanish interest rates, but also the market's perception that Paris is too eager for further cuts to stimulate its economy.

Since early 1990, France has reduced its rates three times, by a quarter point on each occasion,

and resisted raising them despite two increases in German rates since November.

"France has been a bit too eager to challenge the markets by reducing its rates fast and saying it wants more," said Mr. Lomax.

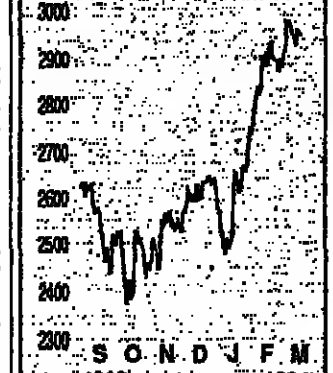
Despite this "slightly perverse technical problem," Mr. Readell said that the ERM was "working remarkably well."

He and others maintained that investors were becoming convinced

The Dow

Daily closings of the Dow Jones Industrial Average

1990 1991



NYSE Most Active

Symbol	High	Low	Close	Change
Exxon	57 1/4	57 1/4	57 1/4	+1/4
GTE	32 1/4	32 1/4	32 1/4	-1/4
AT&T	33 1/4	33 1/4	33 1/4	-1/4
IBM	126 1/4	126 1/4	126 1/4	-1/4
Philip Morris	68 1/4	68 1/4	68 1/4	-1/4
General Electric	68 1/4	68 1/4	68 1/4	+1/4

AMEX Most Active

Symbol	High	Low	Close	Change
Exxon	57 1/4	57 1/4	57 1/4	+1/4
GTE	32 1/4	32 1/4	32 1/4	-1/4
AT&T	33 1/4	33 1/4	33 1/4	-1/4
IBM	126 1/4	126 1/4	126 1/4	-1/4
Philip Morris	68 1/4	68 1/4	68 1/4	-1/4
General Electric	68 1/4	68 1/4	68 1/4	+1/4

NASDAQ Diary

Symbol	High	Low	Close	Change
Exxon	57 1/4	57 1/4	57 1/4	+1/4
GTE	32 1/4	32 1/4	32 1/4	-1/4
AT&T	33 1/4	33 1/4	33 1/4	-1/4
IBM	126 1/4	126 1/4	126 1/4	-1/4
Philip Morris	68 1/4	68 1/4	68 1/4	-1/4
General Electric	68 1/4	68 1/4	68 1/4	+1/4

Amex Diary

Symbol	High	Low	Close	Change
Exxon	57 1/4	57 1/4	57 1/4	+1/4
GTE	32 1/4	32 1/4	32 1/4	-1/4
AT&T	33 1/4	33 1/4	33 1/4	-1/4
IBM	126 1/4	126 1/4	126 1/4	-1/4
Philip Morris	68 1/4	68 1/4	68 1/4	-1/4
General Electric	68 1/4	68 1/4	68 1/4	+1/4

NASDAQ Diary

Symbol	High	Low	Close	Change
Exxon	57 1/4	57 1/4	57 1/4	+1/4
GTE	32 1/4	32 1/4	32 1/4	-1/4
AT&T	33 1/4	33 1/4	33 1/4	-1/4
IBM	126 1/4	126 1/4	126 1/4	-1/4
Philip Morris	68 1/4	68 1/4	68 1/4	-1/4
General Electric	68 1/4	68 1/4	68 1/4	+1/4

Dow Jones Averages

Index	High	Low	Close	Change
Dow Jones	2,948.27	2,948.27	2,948.27	-3.96
NYSE	204.08	204.08	204.08	-0.20
AMEX	352.63	352.63	352.63	-2.77
NASDAQ	466.29	466.29	466.29	-1.50

Standard & Poor's Indexes

Index	High	Low	Close	Change
S&P 500	373.59	373.59	373.59	+0.09
S&P 400	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	-0.10
S&P 600	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	-0.15

NYSE Indexes

Index	High	Low	Close	Change
NYSE Composite	204.08	204.08	204.08	-0.20
NYSE Industrial	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10
NYSE Utility	50.00	50.00	50.00	-0.05
NYSE Finance	25.00	25.00	25.00	-0.02

NASDAQ Indexes

Index	High	Low	Close	Change
NASDAQ Composite	466.29	466.29	466.29	-1.50
NASDAQ Industrial	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10
NASDAQ Utility	50.00	50.00	50.00	-0.05
NASDAQ Finance	25.00	25.00	25.00	-0.02

AMEX Indexes

Index	High	Low	Close	Change
AMEX Composite	352.63	352.63	352.63	-2.77
AMEX Industrial	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10
AMEX Utility	50.00	50.00	50.00	-0.05
AMEX Finance	25.00	25.00	25.00	-0.02

Dow Jones Bond Averages

Bond	High	Low	Close	Change
10-Year	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10
30-Year	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.15
1-Month	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.05

Market Sales

Market	High	Low	Close	Change
NYSE	204.08	204.08	204.08	-0.20
AMEX	352.63	352.63	352.63	-2.77
NASDAQ	466.29	466.29	466.29	-1.50

S&P 100 Index Options

Option	High	Low	Close	Change
Call	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10
Put	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.15

Dividends

Company	Dividend	Yield
Exxon	\$1.00	1.75%
GTE	\$0.50	1.56%
AT&T	\$0.75	2.25%

European Futures

Contract	High	Low	Close	Change
3-Month Eurodollar	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10
6-Month Eurodollar	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.15
9-Month Eurodollar	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.20

London Metals

Commodity	High	Low	Close	Change
Gold	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	-0.10
Silver	50.00	50.00	50.00	-0.05
Copper	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10

N.Y.S.E. Odd-Lot Trading

Symbol	High	Low	Close	Change
Exxon	57 1/4	57 1/4	57 1/4	+1/4
GTE	32 1/4	32 1/4	32 1/4	-1/4
AT&T	33 1/4	33 1/4	33 1/4	-1/4

Spot Commodities

Commodity	High	Low	Close	Change
Crude Oil	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10
Natural Gas	50.00	50.00	50.00	-0.05
Wheat	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10

U.S. FUTURES

Contract	High	Low	Close	Change
3-Month Eurodollar	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10
6-Month Eurodollar	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.15
9-Month Eurodollar	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.20

Grains

Contract	High	Low	Close	Change
Wheat	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10
Corn	50.00	50.00	50.00	-0.05
Soybeans	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10

Metals

Contract	High	Low	Close	Change
Gold	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	-0.10
Silver	50.00	50.00	50.00	-0.05
Copper	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10

Livestock

Contract	High	Low	Close	Change
Cattle	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10
Pigs	50.00	50.00	50.00	-0.05
Sheep	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10

Financial

Contract	High	Low	Close	Change
3-Month Eurodollar	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10
6-Month Eurodollar	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.15
9-Month Eurodollar	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.20

Stock Indexes

Index	High	Low	Close	Change
Dow Jones	2,948.27	2,948.27	2,948.27	-3.96
NYSE	204.08	204.08	204.08	-0.20
AMEX	352.63	352.63	352.63	-2.77

Commodity Indexes

Index	High	Low	Close	Change
Crude Oil	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10
Natural Gas	50.00	50.00	50.00	-0.05
Wheat	100.00	100.00	100.00	-0.10

U.S. / AT THE CLOSE

BankAmerica Cuts Real-Estate Loans

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — BankAmerica Corp. said Friday that it is cutting back on loans in the commercial real-estate market in 1991 and that nonaccruing loans in this portfolio could increase because of the uncertain economic outlook.

Construction and commercial real-estate loans account for about 11 percent of BankAmerica's total loan portfolio, which stood at \$85.8 billion on Dec. 31. Nonaccruing assets totaled \$3.12 billion in 1990, of which \$351.0 million were commercial real-estate loans, the bank said. For 1991, the report said, BankAmerica will not be immune to the effects of the economic slowdown, the Gulf war and the fifth year of drought in California.

Singapore Air Orders 6 Boeing 747s

SEATTLE (Reuters) — Boeing Co. said Friday that Singapore Airlines ordered six more 747 planes worth more than \$800 million.

It was apparently the first major aircraft order to be placed since the cessation of hostilities in the Gulf war. There was a considerable slowdown in the airline industry during the months following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August.

Boeing, which has a sizable backlog of orders, recently announced that it expected 1991 earnings to be significantly higher than in 1990.

U.S. Takes Over AmeriFirst Bank

MIAMI (AP) — AmeriFirst Bank, the nation's oldest federally chartered savings and loan, was seized Friday by federal regulators after it failed to find a buyer for its 34-branch system.

The 55-year-old thrift was brought down by bad real estate loans and was unable to meet federal capital guidelines. The Miami-based S & L posted \$117.8 million in losses for the year ended Sept. 30.

Kellogg Sees Strong Earnings

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. (Reuters) — Kellogg Co. said Friday that it expects to achieve strong first-quarter results, with earnings exceeding current estimates by analysts.

Those estimates range from 95 cents to \$1.05 a share for the quarter. But Chairman William Labonte said estimates that the company's full-year earnings would be \$4.80 a share are "very aggressive in light of the challenges we continue to face in the United States from both private label cereals and branded competition."

COMPUTER: A 'Join Us' Bid

(Continued from page 1) the design of conventional computers.

Over time, the Sixth Generation Project would attempt to marry parallel processing with another, more distant technology that aims at huge breakthroughs in computing speeds by replacing electronic pulses with beams of light — often from microscopic lasers.

While the Defense Department and others have underwritten research in this area, known as optical computing, the technology is still at its infant stages.

"This is an example of how the Japanese are looking for new horizons because they have milked everything out of electronics," said Alan Huang, the head of the optical research department at AT&T's Bell Laboratories.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Close Prev.		Close Prev.		Close Prev.		Close Prev.		Close Prev.		Close Prev.		Close Prev.		Close Prev.	
Amsterdam		Brussels		Frankfurt		London		Madrid		Milan		Paris		Tokyo	
ABN-Amro	24.26	ABN-Amro	24.26	ABN-Amro	24.26	ABN-Amro	24.26	ABN-Amro	24.26	ABN-Amro	24.26	ABN-Amro	24.26	ABN-Amro	24.26
Alkermid	24.26	Alkermid	24.26	Alkermid	24.26	Alkermid	24.26	Alkermid	24.26	Alkermid	24.26	Alkermid	24.26	Alkermid	24.26
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Confident Amstrad Chief Trims Stake

By Leigh Bruce
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Alan Sugar, founder and chairman of the consumer-electronics group Amstrad PLC, took a step toward diversifying his business interests on Friday when he sold part of his stake in the company in order to invest in commercial property.

The move appeared to confirm a significant change for Amstrad as Mr. Sugar moved toward a more corporate and less personal approach to one of Europe's leading entrepreneurial companies.

It also preceded what some analysts believe will be several difficult months ahead for the personal computer industry because of widespread recession.

Mr. Sugar sold 43.75 million shares for \$34.2 million (\$63.5 million), reducing his holding from 44 percent to 36.37 percent.

At the same time, he undertook "not to dispose of any further shares in Amstrad for the next two years" unless it is to make a transfer to his charitable foundation.

The stock was quickly snapped up by a variety of British institutions, which now hold about 45 percent. No single shareholder besides Mr. Sugar holds as much as 4 percent.

Analysts predicted Mr. Sugar would remain strongly involved in the company. "It doesn't diminish his commitment," said Evan Miller of Lehman Brothers International.

Mr. Sugar said the disposal would give him "the liquidity to take advantage of certain opportunities that exist in the currently depressed commercial property market."

He added that his confidence in Amstrad was "undiminished" and that he was "fully committed to leading Amstrad as it grasps the opportunities of the future."

A close associate of Mr. Sugar said the entrepreneur "remains immersed in Amstrad and doesn't intend to divest himself of its management."

But with a strong new management structure in place, Mr. Sugar said, he was confident that Amstrad's future was bright. He also reported that the company's manufacturing from the Far East and instituted more stringent quality checks.

"We feel the company is very much on the right track," Mr. Miller said. "In the immediate future, its performance will depend on the economic cycle and not on solving internal problems."

In February, Amstrad announced a 33 percent increase in profit for the six months ended Dec. 31, confirming that the turnaround in the company's fortunes was well under way despite tough economic conditions.

The company's share of the personal computer market both in Britain and on the Continent also has rebounded from the trough of 1989.

Still, Mr. Evan said Amstrad, like most of its rivals, faced difficult months ahead.

"You can have the greatest products, the greatest prices, and the greatest marketing, but until the economy picks up and people are willing to bring out their wallets, there isn't much you can do," he said.

Mr. Sugar stunned many analysts when he openly admitted he had made mistakes and moved to correcting them.

"He was contemptuous of normal companies and suffered as a result," Mr. Crowley said.

Faced with disaster, Mr. Sugar set about recruiting top management talent and putting together a control structure appropriate for a \$600 million company. He also reported that the company's manufacturing from the Far East and instituted more stringent quality checks.

"We feel the company is very much on the right track," Mr. Miller said. "In the immediate future, its performance will depend on the economic cycle and not on solving internal problems."

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GBL and Pargesa Cut Bank Holding

BRUSSELS — Groupe Bruxelles Lambert SA and the Swiss holding company Pargesa Holding SA said they agreed to sell for more than 5 billion francs (\$153 million) half of their stake of nearly 50 percent in Banque Internationale à Luxembourg to Crédit Commercial de Belgique SA, a Belgian state-owned bank.

The companies said in a joint statement that Crédit Commercial had an option to buy the remaining stake by Dec. 31, 1993.

The stake Crédit Commercial is buying includes shares, convertible bonds and bonds with warrants, the statement said.

The announcement of the sale came as BIL said it could see a 50 percent fall in net profit in 1990, according to Gaston Thoen, the bank's president and a former EC Commission president.

"It will not be as good as I would wish," Mr. Thoen said of the result, which is scheduled to be announced next month.

"It will be positive but half what it could have been," he added. Asked whether that meant half of the previous year's net profit of 1.4 billion francs, he said, "I would say so."

GBL and Pargesa said their sale of the BIL stake was part of their new investment and development policy, which started in mid-1990.

It said the deal freed the capital needed to redeploy their assets while allowing them to remain partners at BIL in association with Crédit Commercial.

GBL, Belgium's second-largest holding company, headed by the powerful Belgian industrialist Albert Frère, has been shedding assets steadily since last year. Sales have included its 26.75 percent stake in Cie Internationale des Wagons-Lits & du Tourisme to the

rival holding company Société Générale de Belgique SA.

The GBL empire looked shaky last year following the collapse of its U.S. affiliate, Drexel Burnham Lambert Group. GBL was forced to write off its 27 percent shareholding in Drexel, depressing the Belgian company's profit by 26 percent.

Friday's statement said the two banks planned synergies in retail and corporate banking and financial markets. Crédit Commercial, which is strong in the Belgian domestic market, also wanted to develop international activities through BIL, it said.

BIL is Luxembourg's largest retail bank with client deposits totaling 406 billion francs and a consolidated balance sheet total of 523.6 billion francs.

Crédit Commercial is Belgium's second-largest bank in terms of customer deposits, which totaled 1.29 trillion francs in 1990.

Crédit Commercial is owned by Belgium's provincial and local authorities and is their main financier.

GBL is the main shareholder in Belgium's largest industrial oil company, Petrofina SA, with a stake of 19.94 percent.

Investor's Europe			
Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE 100 Index	Paris CAC 40	
Exchange	Index	Friday Close	Prev. Close % Change
Amsterdam	CBS Trend	93.10	93.70 -0.64
Brussels	Stock Index	5782.70	5777.50 +0.09
Frankfurt	DAX	1570.55	1575.55 -0.38
Frankfurt	FAZ	669.95	666.69 +0.49
Helsinki	HEX	1105.40	1068.40 +3.46
London	Financial Times 30	1983.50	1998.50 -0.75
London	FTSE 100	2494.20	2500.60 -0.26
Madrid	General Index	286.99	283.62 +1.19
Milan	MIB	1167.00	1144.00 +2.01
Paris	CAC 40	1890.49	1816.81 -4.00
Stockholm	Affarsveiden	1102.50	1097.00 +0.50
Vienna	Stock Index	581.57	581.00 +0.05
Zurich	SBS	604.20	604.40 -0.03

Premafin Talks to Credito

MILAN — Shares in Credito Italiano SpA, one of Italy's largest state-controlled banks, rose 3.1 percent Friday on press reports that the financial holding company Premafin SpA had bought a 4 percent stake in it for around 100 billion lire (\$85 million).

A source close to one of the companies confirmed that the two were holding talks about a stake, but refused to give any financial details. "There are talks, but there is no final agreement," said the source.

Credito Italiano shares were fixed at 2,730 lire, up from 2,647 Thursday. Shares in Premafin rose 2.4 percent to 16,380 lire.

Several Italian dailies, quoting market sources, said Premafin had bought between 3 percent and 5 percent of Credito Italiano for between 100 billion and 160 billion lire. Neither Premafin nor Credito Italiano issued any official comment.

Premafin is controlled by the Italian entrepreneur Salvatore Ligresti, whose principal interests are in the construction and insurance sectors. The company controls Turin-based insurer Società Assicuratrice Industriale SpA, known as SAI.

Banca Della Svizzera Says Outlook Is Rosy

ZURICH — Banca Della Svizzera Italiana, Switzerland's sixth-largest commercial bank, predicted Friday that results for 1991 would be above year-earlier levels and said it would give priority to expanding private banking activities.

Despite the Gulf crisis and a subsequent slump in world stock markets, the bank's net profit last year was virtually unchanged at 57.7 million Swiss francs (\$42.2 million) and its dividend was unchanged.

Giorgio Ghiringhelli, the bank's

chief executive, said profits in January and February 1991 were well above year-earlier levels and said he is confident of another good result for the full year.

"If the developments seen in the first two months continue, results could be considerably better than in 1990," he said.

Mr. Ghiringhelli said BSI would still cover the full range of financial operations, but priority would go to developing private banking operations.

BSI's Swiss offices manage about

IEA Urges Germany To Cut Coal Subsidies

BONN — The International Energy Agency, which has just completed an report on Germany, urged the Bonn government Friday to cut its heavy coal subsidies.

Helga Steep, the IEA executive director, said it was contradictory for the Bonn government to reduce lignite production in eastern Germany, laying off many people, while continuing to subsidize coal production in the west because the restructuring there had advanced too slowly.

Degussa Profit Hit by Slump In Chemicals

FRANKFURT — Degussa AG, the chemicals and metals group, said Friday that profit for the first four months of the financial year was below its level in the same period a year ago, mainly due to the decline of the dollar and falling demand for chemical products.

The Degussa chairman, Gert Becker, said group sales had fallen 9 percent and parent company sales had slipped 12 percent in the five months to the end of February.

He declined to give specific data for the current business year, saying more information would be released at the shareholders' meeting April 19.

But he added, "From today's point of view it does not look as though 1990/91 will be a satisfactory year."

Degussa's group net profit fell 16 percent in the last financial year, 147 Deutsche marks (\$93.3 million).

GDP Rate Confirms Recession in Britain

LONDON — The Central Statistical Office reported Friday that Britain's economy grew by an average of 0.5 percent in 1990 with a 0.9 percent decline in the year's final quarter.

The decline was the second straight drop in gross domestic product, confirming the fact that Britain is in recession.

The same 0.9 percent decline for the final quarter was reported last month on the basis of output figures.

The provisional data for gross domestic product, the total value of goods and services produced within the economy, also showed a final quarter fall of 1.3 percent from the same period in 1989.

The GDP deflator, the broadest economic indicator of inflation, rose 7.5 percent for the year as a whole.

The statistics were calculated as an average of output, income and expenditures.

The nation's savings ratio, the percentage of disposable personal

income saved, rose to 8.5 percent in 1990 from 6.5 percent the previous year, the statistic showed.

British industrial and commercial companies had an estimated financial deficit of £27 billion (\$30.2 billion) compared with a deficit of £21 billion in 1989.

Gross trading profits among companies fell one percent, to \$63 billion, in 1990 after the deduction of stock appreciation.

The fall would have been greater had it not been for the inclusion of the recently privatized water companies in the statistics, the Statistical Office said.

Fixed investments for the whole economy fell 2 percent in 1990 from a year earlier.

Keith Storch, an economist at James Capel & Co., said the figure reflected "much lower consumer spending and a quicker decline in capital spending."

He said the result does not show business inventory drawdown effects, and the decline of British economic activity could continue until midyear.

BNP Unit Sells African Banks To Meridien

PARIS — France's Banque Nationale de Paris said on Friday that one of its subsidiaries had signed a long-awaited accord for a takeover of its African banking network by Meridien International Bank Ltd.

The price was not disclosed.

Meridien will take over seven African banks owned by the unit, Banque Internationale pour l'Afrique Occidentale.

The deal marks the end of BNP's three-year ownership of 51 percent of the loss-making group, which it took over at the French government's request. BNP is state-owned.

The seven banks being sold are in Togo, Niger, Mali, Central African Republic, Gabon, Chad and Zaire. The deal also includes affiliates in Burkina Faso, Congo and Guinea.

Meridien said it planned to run the Africa network through Meridien BIAO SA.

NASDAQ

Friday's Prices
NASDAQ prices are for New York time. This list compiled by the AP, consists of the 1,000 most traded securities in terms of dollar value. It is updated twice a year.

1000 Most Traded Stocks	Div	Yld	PE	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low	1/16
IBM	3.20	4.8	12.5	160	140	1/16
Microsoft	0.00	0.0	15.0	100	80	1/16
Apple	0.00	0.0	10.0	60	50	1/16
Oracle	0.00	0.0	12.0	40	30	1/16
Novell	0.00	0.0	11.0	35	25	1/16
Lotus	0.00	0.0	9.0	30	20	1/16
Intuit	0.00	0.0	8.0	25	15	1/16
Visa	0.00	0.0	7.0	20	10	1/16
MasterCard	0.00	0.0	6.0	15	5	1/16
Amex	0.00	0.0	5.0	10	0	1/16

Friday's Closing
Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. *Via The Associated Press*

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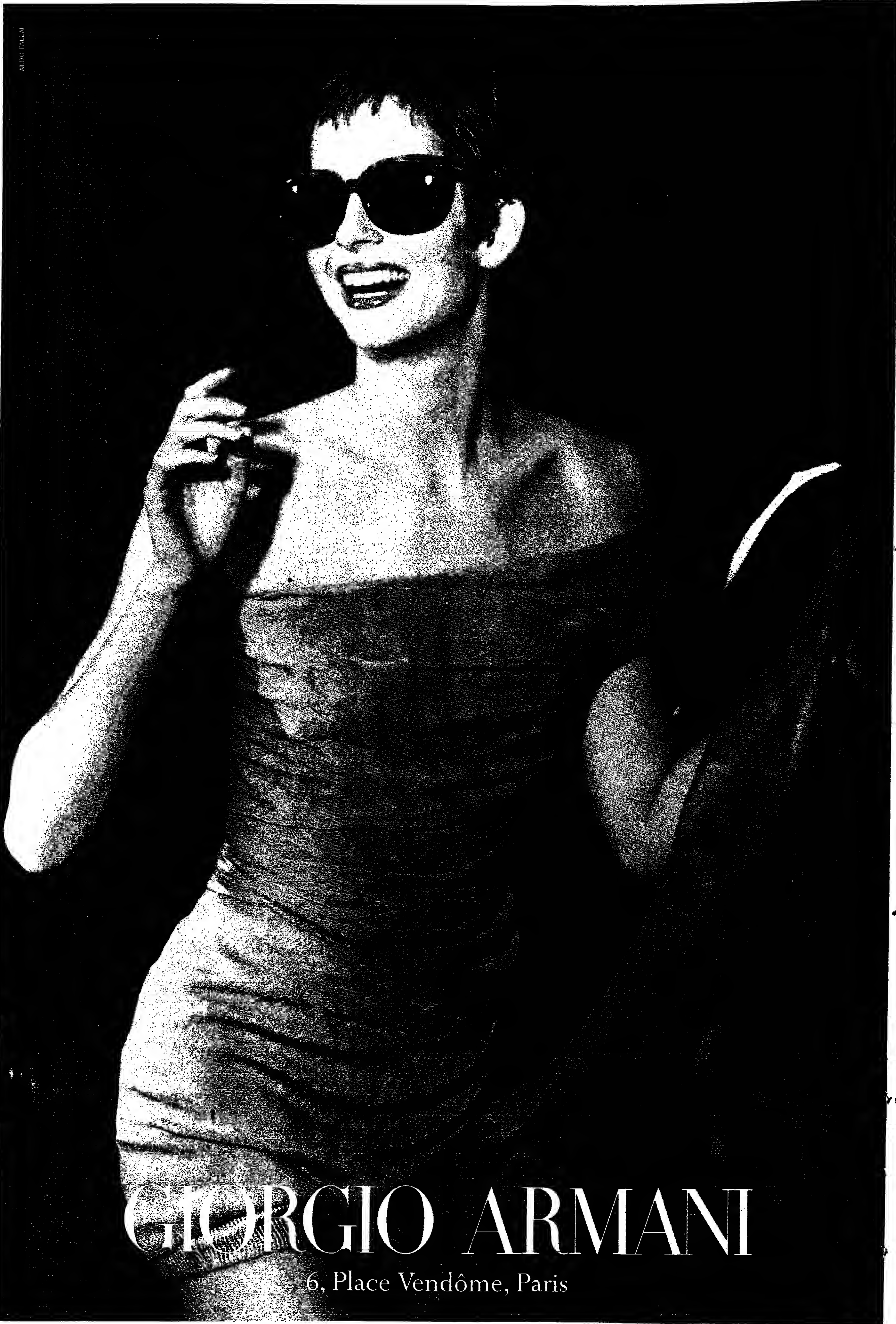
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Fashion/1991

Lagerfeld: the Man With a Midas Touch

PARIS — "Goldfinger" was on the sound track, Sylvester Stallone was in the audience, his girlfriend on the runway in a body-suit of golden gold. And Karl Lagerfeld proved that he is fashion's man with the Midas touch.

This show was wild, wacky, modern in spirit, and filled with clothes to make fashion's pulse race — not just the inventive jackets that have become the designer's trademark, but also new skirts that flared

PARIS COLLECTIONS

out, flipped open at the sides and looked right for now.

"Power-packed," said Bloomingdale's Kalman Rottenstein as the applause drowned out the loud, funky music.

The shock of the show was in the gold and silver second-skin body-suits that went under everything from the opening coats in pyramids of bright color to the delicious waps of black chiffon at night. When these elegant, gossamer-light dresses fluttered over silver suits, it took fashion on to a new planet.

"I wanted that feeling of people from another world that the young like today, and I love the idea of this completely new space age material that makes the body perfect," the designer said after the show.

Lagerfeld has put his goldfinger on it: Women have taken to the "body" and stretch hose as a firm base on which to build an outfit. With flesh decency concealed and cellulite under control, it is just a question of choosing what goes on top, from a curvy A-line jacket to a jersey tunic open like an apron at the sides and dangling with fringes fore-and-aft.

Tabards in graphic blocks of color and spray-paint effects on fabrics gave the collection an arty feel that did not always come off. Bold prints that looked like Sonia-Dolagay-goes-to-a-Hamburg-nightspot were dreadful. But Lagerfeld zooms out so many ideas so fast that the misses — rounded velvet skirts puffed under long jackets or scooping drapes of gold lace — are far outnumbered by the palpable hits.

The silhouette was A-line, which gave scope for Lagerfeld's thousand-and-one jacket shapes, almost all long-fitted at the waist and flaring at the hips. The new skirt families stopped above the knee, a sensible length, which looked anything but with funky ankle-high boots and socks.

What did Stallone make of it all? "I was just so pleased to see Jennifer [Plavin] up there in competition with the world's great models," he said. Don't tell Sly, but underneath the wild wig changes that were one of Lagerfeld's witty tricks, not even the pros could work out which model was which.

Chloé had 1960s wigs, but designer Martine Sitbon's passion for those swinging years had a positive effect this season. Her tailoring was neat, small-shouldered and it looked fresh and young, especially in bright-as-paint colors — turquoise, orange, violet, rose — or homage-to-Courrèges pastels.

At night, Sitbon decorated lingerie-slip dresses with giant rhinestone zippers or feathers, which are molting all over the runways this season.

The other shows were a quieter affair. Givenchy's was too long, too dull in its endless opening parade of three-quarter-length coats, sharp-shouldered suits and soft jersey dresses, even though we know that is what his customers want to wear. They can get them in new colors next season — shades of yellow ochre and rich red, or fresh sky blue. The must-have outfit is now the dress and jacket rather than a suit. Knee-high boots brightened things up a bit, especially at night when they were all aglitter with a mosaic of plastic paillettes.

THE evening clothes were lovely: elegant, impeccably cut and just a little bit racy, with the accent on the bosom. This meant a black velvet heart-shaped bodice swelling out of a soft satin bathrobe of a dress; or a bra mounted on the outside of a dress; or the bosom lightly veiled in chiffon with a barbed wire of jet beading across the sheer fabric. Givenchy called it a "modesty" bodice, but it was much more fun.

The Yves Saint Laurent fur show was a family affair. Pierre Bergé took his dog, Flicelle, for a walk, and the entire YSL gang, from Betty Catroux, in her inevitable black, to Marie-Hélène de Rothschild, in raspberry-pink suede, turned up to cheer on Bergé's protégé, 25-year-old Robert Merloz.

And finally, Saint Laurent himself slipped into a back-row seat to applaud the show created by Merloz, who was overwhelmed with emotion as he took his bow.

"Fur for ever" was the message written in studs on the back of a petite girl's cape. For at



Lagerfeld's shimmering metallic body-suit under a sheer evening dress.

a time when most designers are running scared or hiding the pelts inside, Merloz celebrated skins: a glossy mink cardigan coat with a fringed hemline; a glamorous blond Russian sable jacket; or mink paws dyed navy to re-create the famous YSL pea coat.

There was nothing new in the silhouette, except the Michelin-Man effect of a padded suit in horizontally worked mink. Most of the jackets and coats were hung on the familiar Saint Laurent coat-hanger shoulders. That is an endangered species that should not be preserved.

Fake leopard (but trimmed with four types of fox in a feathery effect) and an appliqué of leaping gazelles were brief nods to ecology. It will be a brave woman who walks the streets of New York wearing a baseball cap with a fox head as its peak and a bushy tail swinging at the nape.

Couture is dead. *Vive la haute couture!* Balmain announced Friday that it will take up the needles again next season after the much-trumpeted scaling down of its couture operation.

Suzy Menkes

Rock Around the Frock

Designers 'Sample' or 'Remix' Old Favorites

By Suzy Menkes

PARIS — If pop music holds up a mirror to fashion's soul, the sound system at these international shows is very revealing.

The two most insistent tracks of the season are "Hello, I Love You," a 1968 hit by The Doors, whose cult hero Jim Morrison is now celebrated on film in America, and Madonna's "Justify My Love." The first reflects fashion's fascination — we might say obsession — with the 1960s.

Madonna's song is glossily packaged, sexy, modern — and controversial, not just because of its raunchy video, but because it is an example of what the pop world calls "sampling": its breathy lyrics sung to a backing beat taken from another record, Public Enemy's "Security of the First World."

The music business has invented terms to define degrees of "borrowing," from a disc jockey "mixing" two tracks together, to "sampling" (taking a digital sample from a song, pre-recording it in a memory bank and using it in a new way), to "bootlegging," which is a straight steal of instrumental and vocals from other artists.

This gives fashion food for thought, for the most overwhelming phenomenon of modern times is that almost everything we see seems to be recycled from someone or somewhere else: Chanel's braided jacket, a Jackie Kennedy shift, Lacroix's jeweled buttons, Pucci patterns, Montana's A-line asymmetries, Cardin cutouts, and the same jewel prints or cross motifs everywhere.

The hero of this fashion cloning, on his own admission, is Franco Moschino, who held up a black and white poundstooth check blazer in Milan last week and explained his philosophy.

"This is a Saint Laurent blazer," he said. "But it is also my blazer. Fashion now is anybody you want it to be."

A truly creative designer is the one whose clothes have originality

and fresh inspiration. Yet, already that definition becomes complicated, for Saint Laurent's collections are more and more "sampling" his own past, another echo of a trend in music that brings new albums from snippets of old tracks like James Brown's "I'm Real."

The retrospective exhibition, raking over your past while still presenting collections, is another phenomenon started by Saint Laurent and now a trend.

And then there is Karl Lagerfeld, who says that he has no interest in the past, only the present and the future. Yet, he has had a fabulous success and become a major fashion influence by "sampling" from 60 years of Chanel. For the last 10 years he has been taking chunks of Coco or just a

'Fashion now is anybody you want it to be.'

few snippets and worked them in his own style. In pop music terms, it has been remixing's greatest hit.

Why should fashion at this time be so obsessed with its own past? Is it a fin de siècle decadence — a world weariness with fashion as Moschino claims? Or is it part of a valid creative process that is going on in other branches of the arts — architecture, painting as well as music, where, after a period of rejecting the past, artists are now picking over the garbage can of history in the name of postmodernism?

There is a big difference — let us just call it the nature of art — between sending out miniskirts and thigh-high boots on the runway as a salute to the 1960s, and Yohji Yamamoto studying Pierre Cardin's cutting and absorbing it into his own inventive tailoring. That is as valid as Madame Grès taking inspiration from the drapes of classical antiquity.

The most creative designers use the past as an engine for the pre-

sent. Vivienne Westwood's New Romantic collection of the early 1980s was based on pirates' costumes, and she uses 16th-century slashing effects and Fragonard prints in the show she stages Monday. Jean-Paul Gaultier used the underworld of Toulouse-Lautrec for the show he sent out Friday.

The greatest current exponent is Christian Lacroix, who enriches his collections with references to baroque, rococo, a Provencal childhood and 1940s Parisian chic and welds them into his image.

Fashion is currently in favor of the clean, pure forward-looking modernism of Claude Montana, yet even that harks back to Cardin and Courrèges in the 1960s. In an extra twist to this back-to-the-future, Courrèges himself has been resuscitated and his line put on sale in Bloomingdale's.

The criticism most often leveled (especially after three weeks of eight-shows-a-day on the runways) is that everything looks much the same. The same accusation of blandness is made of "techno" music, as House and Rap build on their phenomenal success by sampling themselves to death with the help of new technology.

It is the technology of the autofocus lens and especially the video camera that have made the age-old business of fashion copying far more sophisticated. In the not-so-distant past, the Paris collections were hedged in with rules about press coverage and stores were obliged to buy *toiles*. Now, Seventh Avenue manufacturers boast of having collections' videos in a week, and buyers advertise their stores' private label copies.

And there lies the nub of the matter. A great deal of people in music and in fashion make a vast amount of money from the creative talent of the very few. The problem is not so much fashion dwelling on the past. It is about how long fashion can go on feeding on itself.

SUZY MENKES is fashion editor of the International Herald Tribune.

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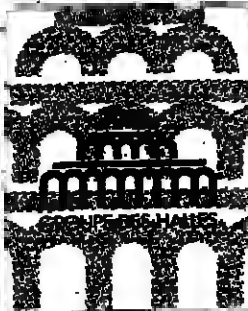
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Fashion/1991 / A Special Report



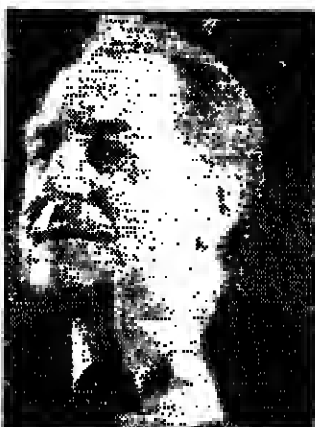
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Bernard Arnault



Henry Racamier



Pierre Bergé

French Luxury Trade Takes Stock

BERNARD ARNAULT, president of LVMH (Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton), total revenues of \$2.7 billion in 1989 (includes Vuitton, Loewe, Givenchy); as director of Financière Agache, Arnault controls Céline, Dior, Lacroix.

"We felt the impact of the Gulf war directly, in the downturn of tourist-related business, and indirectly because it affected the psychology of upscale consumers, who had already hesitated to buy because of the recession, which hit white-collar workers. Happily, the first post-Gulf war figures from our 'bellwether' boutiques in tourist zones indicate a pick up."

"This difficult period has reinforced our belief in our strategy of diversification into champagnes, wines and spirits, as well as fashion accessories, skin-care products and luggage."

"Diversification applies not only to products, but also in terms of regions and currencies. I believe that the Far East will continue to be the locomotive for the industry, with Japan in front. Our growth in Japan last year was 34 percent; the Far East now represents 35 percent of group sales. When you add the growth we foresee in Spain and Germany, the very small portion of sales from the Gulf sector is insignificant."

CLAUDE ELIETTE-HERMANN, president of Chanel. No official figures available but sales are estimated by competitors at \$750 million annually.

"Fundamentally, I believe that the only reason for altering a strategy is when it fails to obtain results. This is not the case at Chanel. Our strategy is constructed on a balance between tradition and innovation, superior quality, limited distribution, quality communication — all linked by a very

In the aftermath of the Gulf war, how do the captains of the French luxury industry view the landscape in the immediate future and the long-term? Suzy Menkes reports.

strong sense of belonging to the House of Chanel.

"Over the years, we rode the peaks and valleys of history, and my aim is never to let short-term accidents influence long-term goals. As far as we are concerned, the Gulf war has to be placed in that context. Because of our balanced portfolio of products and geography, we are possibly less affected than others by the direct consequences of the war, which essentially are less travel, less tourists and less duty-free sales."

"The rate of growth in 1990 has been less rapid than in the two previous years for the industry, and it is likely that we may be entering a new, less buoyant cycle in the markets where we compete. Therefore, far from considering changing our strategy, we see every reason to continue along the same lines and this holds true for every facet of our activity, particularly for fashion."

HENRY RACAMIER, president of ORCOFL, bought Lanvin February 1990 in partnership with L'Oréal, the world's largest cosmetic company.

"I believe that even before the Gulf war, there were forces, especially in the United States, which were affecting luxury products. The war brought them into the open."

"Clients now want a fair price in relation to quality and materials, and there is a sense, too, that they want things to be more understated — to get away from flamboyance and conspicuous consumption. It is a sociological tendency. But I believe that the luxury

industry has a very bright future, because there is such a vast reservoir of clients, especially in the Pacific region."

"I also believe that creativity is important in the luxury industry, and the emergence of the kind of designers who are adapted to the 1990s. This is true for Lanvin and for the whole Orcofl group."

"The little recession of the last few months, especially in the United States, is transitory and the long-term future looks good. I don't share the pessimism of some analysts in this sector."

PIERRE BERGÉ, chairman of Yves Saint Laurent, total sales of \$588 million in 1990, of which 81 percent was YSL Parfums.

"I think that there is a change in mentality. I am not sure that people are prepared to spend without thinking about it, and will not accumulate things in the same way. That is not such a bad thing."

"Our strategy at Saint Laurent is to open more and more of our own boutiques for both Yves Saint Laurent and for Variation and also for accessories. We are in a strong position with accessories because of our linkup with Cartier. This is not a deliberate policy to change the ratio between perfumes and beauty and other products; it is just to develop further where we see an opportunity."

"I believe that the luxury industry will always be with us, but that there will be problems in haute couture, because of the loss of clients. I don't want to hear about rich women buying couture. The future is in second lines, so that women realize that it is better to

have a real Saint Laurent outfit at a competitive price than a copy. It has nothing to do with my socialist principles. That was always Yves's dream, when we opened the first Rive Gauche right at the beginning — it was to bring his designs to the greatest number of people."

JEAN LOUIS DUMAS-HERMÈS, president of Hermès, which also holds small share in Jean-Louis Scherrer. Hermès revenues rose 46 percent in 1989 to \$500 million.

"I think there will be changes in the luxury market, and it is wise to assume so. Even if we are wrong, Hermès will be well-prepared. These coming years will be difficult and very challenging."

"I also think that the world had a shock. The dreams — and we are in the business of selling dreams — have been shaken up."

"The big crisis for us is in America, and secondly that the Japanese are not traveling. But, like acting on a health warning, we can make ourselves leaner, fitter and more efficient. The luxury industry had become a bit obese."

"The winners will be those who understand the new market — not those who try to be big, but those who try to be good. I do feel that in the future, the good people will last and the rest will disappear."

"We ended 1990 on a par with 1989 and it is obvious that we are not going to see the annual increases of 30 percent we had become accustomed to. Since Jan. 1, we are 18 percent down. Yet, in certain areas where we have a loyal local clientele, we are 12 percent up."

"The idea of people buying up luxury industries and working to a two-year plan is finished. My idea is that you plant trees for your grandson — and cut a rose every day."

'Le Look' — When Cash Counts

By Rebecca S. Voight

PARIS — Just as ready-to-wear exploded in the early 1960s, to fill the gap between couture and drab, mass-produced clothes, France's more dash-than-cash collections are dressing young women hungry to shed their jeans for something more feminine.

While poor sales for pricey designer ready-to-wear have put Paris runways in a slump of late, upstart low-priced French brands with retail chains, like Kookai and Et Vous, are turning out salable, bright, young clothes.

"Our customers don't buy Kookai for the name, but because they like the clothes, says the collection's designer, Catherine Marnata. "Labels are passé for them unless it's a joke like fake Chanel."

After nearly a decade of growth within the French market, France's savvy, low-priced collections have become the latest franchise bait for the Japanese. Kookai has stores in Japan and Et Vous, which began opening stores there last year, will have five by the end of 1991, including a fashion building in Tokyo. For these collections, which present new styles close to and sometimes within the season, the international move represents a major challenge.

France began taking casual style seriously when designers Martine and François Girbaud arrived in the 1970s to turn denim into a fashion art form. They have since been joined by a band of style gurus, all strangely enough from the French southwest, who have turned the American dream into their creative base. For French young people, Charles Cheignon and Chipie are the household words of fashion. Begun in 1967, Chipie, with a \$131.6 million sales volume, ranked 48th in a recently published list of the top 100 French fashion businesses, ahead of Pierre Cardin and just six steps behind kingpin Bernard Arnault.

Et Vous, which has 10 stores in France and sells to 180 shops, has already proven it can hold its own in the designer jungle. In the United States, there are corners at Bloomingdale's and Galeries Lafayette, which opens in New York next fall, will have a shop.

"We'd like to have a store on the rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré," adds Gérard Chetrit, commercial director of Et Vous.

Calm 1990's interiors strengthen Et Vous's elegant image, both in the stores and at the Paris headquarters, which is filled with the collection of 1930s and modern art of its president, William Chelly. The city's bustling Sentier garment district, just outside, seems worlds away.



Kookai's dressed-up basics.

Et Vous began as a departure from Chelly's Capitol sweatshirt line eight years ago, and although the label is known for tailored jackets, the best-seller is dressed-up jeans offered in canvas colors under the collection's Opox label.

"Et Vous is for the elegant active woman," explains Chetrit. "She'll wear canvas jeans, but with a blazer and a silk shirt." Priced from 400 to 600 francs (between \$75 and \$115), Et Vous's success "depends on a keen understanding of what the market will bear," says Chetrit.

Kookai seems too busy selling clothes to create an ambience. Cardboard boxes, fresh from the factories in France, Portugal and Italy, clog the grandiose entry at Kookai's headquarters. The lowest-priced sweater, currently retailing for about 250 francs in summer and 350 francs in winter, created a stir in 1986, when the then three-year-old manufacturer opened a string of small shops in Paris within the same month. There are currently 220 Kookai boutiques throughout France, with a smattering in European capitals. Wovens are now a growing part of the collection. Kookai, which looked like a flash in the pan at the start, has survived the decade with a credible fashion record and a 460-million-franc sales volume.

Kookai's happy chaos extends upstairs to the desk of its president, Philippe de Hesdin, which is piled high with papers and magazines and presided over by a Barbie doll. Unlike most in the fashion industry, Kookai invested

heavily in advertising, which accounted for a whopping 6 to 7 percent of its sales volume, when the shops were launched. The style is currently a mod blend of shocking pink and chrome yellow. Pucci inspirations and figure-hugging sock-rib knits. But in France, at least, the look will shift to something else in a few weeks — Kookai restocks several times each season. Local production is part of the formula.

"We can produce in a month in Europe what would take us six months in the Orient," says de Hesdin. Designer Catherine Marnata will not present the fall collection until mid-April, in time to see which way fashion is headed.

Marnata, who began her career at Chanel 12 years ago, now designs for young women whose favorite basic is an imitation of Coco's famous jacket. "It's the richest age group," Marnata says of her target age group, "when girls try a new look every day of the week from pin-up to femme fatale, to find themselves." The dose of fantasy is backed up with solid practicality. "Trying to do something which was beyond our budget would be vulgar," says Marnata. "We have fun, but it's based on real wardrobe needs."

Jean-Pierre Brailard has made his name with fast fashion, too, but he takes a riskier approach. His designs for the label La Fée Maraboute refuse to behave like dressed-up basics.

Brailard creates his madcap kitsch separates with the stamina of a junior-market Karl Lagerfeld, producing about 2,000 styles per season in factories in eastern France near Besançon. Brailard went to law school and was a member of a "rock English" rock band before he opened a store and began making clothes for girls as an alternative to jeans. The designer ignores seasons and introduces new clothes every couple of months.

His whimsy is evident in lacy poodle-print short shorts with bra tops worthy of Daisy Mae and endless Lolita versions of exotic body-dressing. The pieces average from 300 to 500 francs and are major attractions at Galeries Lafayette's second-floor 20 Ans department.

Asked about his customer, Brailard sounds like a 1990s version of Elio Fiorucci, before investment dressing took the fun out of inexpensive clothes. "I don't like uniforms and just because fashion doesn't cost a lot, that doesn't mean it has to be for sheep," he says. "We always thought of young stylish girls like fairies or sorceresses — they use clothes to transform themselves, to become stars."

REBECCA S. VOIGHT is a Paris-based journalist.

'Outsiders' Play the Paris Market

By Michèle Loyer

PARIS — During the Paris collections this week, many of the hundreds of fashion shows won't take place at the prestigious Cour Carrée du Louvre. To discover the

fashion individualists, buyers and journalists will often have to leave the beaten track.

Among that rare breed, the British designers rank first. Unbeatable for their zany ideas and tongue-in-cheek humor, they have inspired many followers, but they have never made it in Paris.

"British designers are either extremely dowdy or extremely wild," says Armand Hadida, owner of the Eclairer shops and a seasoned talent scout.

"They are often chock-full of ideas that appeal to a young clientele, but their prices are too high and their deliveries are appalling," says Christine Weiss, manager of the Kashiyama boutiques.

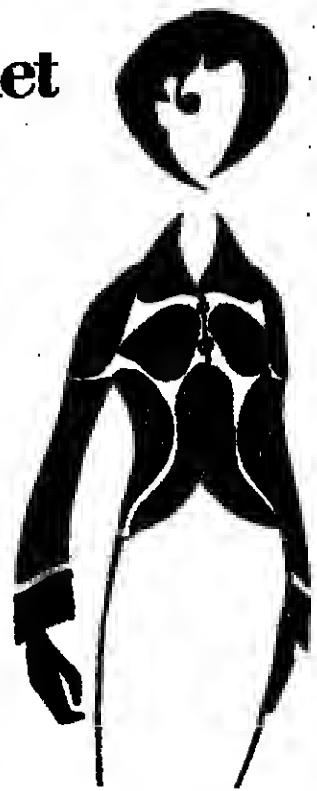
Designer Vivienne Westwood, the flamboyant figurehead of the London fashion scene, would like to change her image. "Magazine editors always pick out my most outrageous garments," says the "British Designer of the Year" and ex-punk star. "True, I love to make fun of historical references, but I also believe in sophistication and elegance."

Making a comeback in Paris after a six-year absence, Westwood has accepted Azzedine Alaïa's invitation to show her winter line at his Marais premises. Whether she will convince buyers of her new "serious" — and more salable — approach to fashion remains to be seen.

Another favorite of fashion journalists, Katharine Hamnett, has reduced her Paris appearance to a mini-fashion show and a video. As for John Galiano, British fashion's unruly child, political and economic circumstances are forcing him to confine his presentation to his Paris showroom.

At the opposite end of the fashion spectrum stands Austrian designer Holmet Lang, 34. In five years, Lang has quietly made his way to the top. Using Mondrian's colors, "less is more," he has pared fashion down to its absolute minimum, turning himself into a contemporary style symbol and the revered guru of the fashion press. His minimalist statement — synthetic fabrics, no-color colors and deadly pale models — may be hard for non-initiates to identify.

If most retailers acknowledge Lang's fashion impact, they wonder how long it will last. "The problem with Lang is that he is sliding fast into intellectualism," says Hadida. "When business is lagging, we need clothes that provoke an emotional response."



A Sybilla design.

Ironically, the best-sellers of Lang's collection sometimes contradict his image: "Lang's chiffon ruffled dress sells best," notes Françoise Cassagnac, manager of the Victoire boutiques.

Antwerp, the new fashion capital of the north, is producing a host of new talents. Ann Demeulemeester, 32, is one of the most promising. The Belgian designer is discreetly establishing her name. "I am not interested in trends; I always do my own thing" says this fashion perfectionist, who defines herself as an "architect rather than a decorator."

Demeulemeester will show her new line at an art gallery on the Place des Vosges.

A true cosmopolitan born in New York of Argentinian and Polish parents, Sybilla is nevertheless an authentic Spanish designer. In her Madrid studio, she uses fabrics as a sculptor uses clay — as a flexible medium to be twisted, pleated, ridged or welled. From one season to the next, she pursues her obsession with the dress, inventing new cuts and ornamentations. Inspired by decorative art, her clothes are often purchased by women who have the same unconventional and artistic personality that she does.

With boutiques in Madrid and Tokyo, Sybilla is now ready to establish her image in Paris. Backed by the Japanese manufacturer Itokin, she has just opened a 400-square-meter space on Rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

MICHELLE LOYER is a Paris-based journalist.

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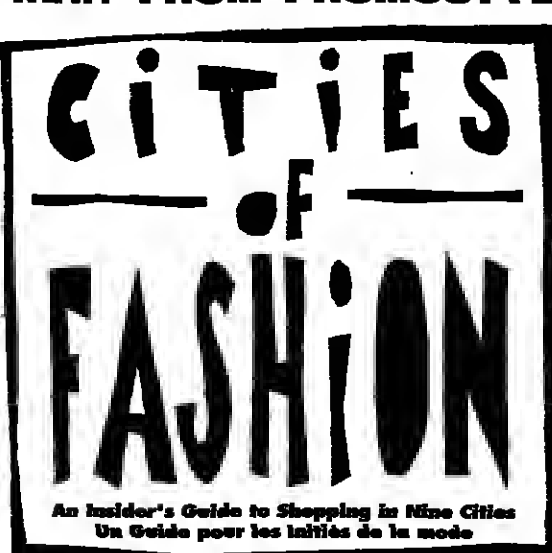
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Fashion/1991 / A Special Report

Hems: The Long View

Mini's Opponents Go to Any Length

By Bernadine Morris

PARIS — Heads up. Hemlines are about to crash. Not everywhere, not in everything and not at the same time, but plummet they will. Designers are restless.

For at least five years, the only direction was up. On runways around the world, mid-thigh skirts were considered the norm. If the jacket hem was on a plane with the fingertips, you couldn't see the skirt below it — if there was a skirt. Tights were an acceptable alternative.

Mid-thigh even became the moderate length as designers like Isaac Mizrahi in New York and Gianni Versace in Milan pressed for even greater heights. The air became quite rarefied.

While women of fashion bared their knees and as much of their thighs as they felt comfortable doing, the most cursory look around any of the world's fashion capitals — never mind the provinces — indicates that not all women are caught up in the short-skirt syndrome. Ask why and they say they don't like the way their knees look, they're too old, they're too fat — the reasons vary, but they account for a lot of abstentions.

This silent opposition probably had very little to do with designers deciding to reverse themselves. Some, like Geoffrey Beene in New York, feel compelled to offer their customers something different from what everybody else is doing. Some merely got bored with short clothes — there is, after all, a limit to what you can do to make them look different — so they began thinking about long.

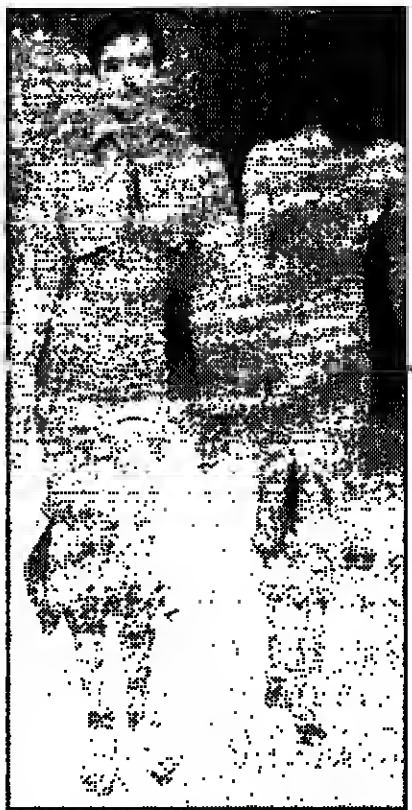
Calvin Klein, among the first to leap on the short bandwagon, says he was thinking of offering some longer styles in his spring collection now being shipped to the stores, but he refrained — he didn't even tell his assistants. He didn't want to scare anybody. The fashion business, like the rest of the economy, is edgy around the world. Women who are reluctant to spend money on clothes might be turned off completely if designers changed their familiar lengths. It might give them a good reason to save their money.

An anomalous situation has arisen as Paris falls shows begin. More advanced designers like Martin Margiela, presumably beaming clothes to younger, adventurous women, dropped hems as far as the shoe tops while establishment houses like Givenchy, with a more mature following, stopped short of the knees.

The last time hemlines went into a precipitous decline was in 1970, when images of women in the United States refused to give up their minis. As their ultimate protest, they turned to pants for most of the decade. Blue jeans became acceptable attire almost anywhere. Designers are not too eager to repeat the process.

The first important salvo in the current hemline incursion was fired in January by some of the French couturiers showing their spring and summer collections. Perhaps they saw the new lengths coming and didn't want to let the ready-to-wear houses take the offensive with their fall and winter collections this month. Perhaps they realized the risk was not too overwhelming since they could make adjustments in the hemline for each of their made-to-order customers.

Emanuel Ungaro said he did it for designers' rights. Each designer should have the freedom to decide where hemlines should be placed, he said. He covered the knees in almost half of his sexy, slithery clothes and then added deep slits



Hints of a downward trend from Azzedine Alaïa, left, and Ungaro.

so the legs could be seen and movement not be impeded. Pierre Cardin showed a few near-ankle-length suits and Karl Lagerfeld tried an educational foray at Chanel — he sliced some skirts into lasagna-wide stripes, he tied sheer overskirts around shorter-length styles and he made long skirts out of translucent fabrics like organza and lace. All this was to prepare women for the change that was to come.

YVES Saint Laurent chose the golden mean. He made wider skirts that stopped just a bit above the knees. Though startling on a fashion runway, it happens to be the length that most women are wearing. And almost every designer from the most conservative to the most advanced showed dipping hemlines for evening, having the knees in front and trailing to the floor behind.

A few weeks later in New York, Arnold Scaasi showed a few knee-grazing dresses in his spring and summer couture collection. "They work in these fabrics, in these styles," said the designer of his longer lace and crepe dresses. He had tried making the entire collection with below-the-knee hemlines and at the last minute pinned them all up.

Obviously, not all the votes are in. Many designers, like the women 20 years ago, are reluctant to give up their minis. In the ready-to-wear collections introduced in Milan early this month, there was a lot of experimenting with longer skirts, even by avant-gardists like Franco Moschino. Some worked, some looked ungainly. Ankle-length coats, including knitted styles by Missoni and casual classics by Gucci, were common over tights, trousers, miniskirts and shorts.

Alan Cleaver and Keith Varty, the British designers for Krizia, made calf-length skirts look swingy by pleating them front and back.



Does Europe Need the Americans?

By Cathy Horyn

WASHINGTON — No one will be more interested in Oscar de la Renta's performance Tuesday at the French collections than his Seventh Avenue rivals back in New York. If he succeeds, they may wish it had been their success. If he doesn't, they'll chalk it up as yet another failed attempt by an American to enter the European market.

For all their licenses in the Far East and despite their clout at home, the leading American designers have been stumped in Europe.

Many have tried. Geoffrey Beene made and showed clothes in Italy for six years through the late '70s, while others, like Norma Kamali, have licensed their sportswear with Italian manufacturers. Some have talked about opening boutiques in Europe, which is odd considering that most of them don't even have shops in the United States. Yet, faced with a static market at home for high-priced labels and dependent on their ready-to-wear image to promote more lucrative licenses, American designers may need Europe more than it needs them.

De la Renta's presence this week in Paris, not to mention the expense of mounting a show and running a showroom, at the Residence Maxim, is at least a sign of new resolve.

"We feel that we are an international company," says Syd Shaw, executive vice president for sales at de la Renta. "We've been selling abroad for 17 years. In Switzerland, Austria, Germany. We know the clothes are right for Europe."

So far, though, no Seventh Avenue designer has hit the jackpot quite like Ralph Lauren, whose retailing muscle has built businesses in Germany, England and France. The designer expects to add another Polo boutique in both London and Paris; his two German stores, in Hannover and Munich, are owned by a subsidiary of Polo, the licensed distributor of the Polo label. This is what Lauren has that other designers can only envy: a European distribution network for goods manufactured in the States as well as the Far East.

He also has something European designers want: sportswear with a distinctly American look.

Ralph has probably done the best job of any American in Europe because his clothes have a mystique about America," says Alan Millstein, a retailing consultant. "But when it comes to serious



Karan

De la Renta

Lauren

daytime clothes, a Frenchwoman would go naked before she bought an American product."

Part of the problem is quality, or what Europeans may chauvinistically perceive as inferior quality. Though U.S. designers rely on European fabrics, sewing standards vary widely among American designers.

But even the best workmanship and detailing does not offset a more serious obstacle: Why would a European woman buy clothes from Bill Blass or Calvin Klein or de la Renta when she can have similar suiting from any one of a dozen European houses?

SHE has even less incentive to buy American labels when import costs make them 20 to 30 percent more expensive than they would be in the States.

"That's the problem," says Bill Blass. "How many \$3,000 and \$4,000 suits can you sell?"

Some Seventh Avenue designers believe the only way to make their prices more competitive is to manufacture their clothes in Europe. But if designers have explored European partnerships, as many have, there has been more talk than progress.

"The problem is one of logistics," says Frank Mori, president of Takhyo, which owns Annie Klein and 50 percent of Donna Karan. "In Europe, most of the business is done in specialty stores, but here we're used to department stores with 40 branches. It's also a problem of sizing. A French body is different than a German body. Which is why it's easier for Americans to sell to Japan — it has a large homogeneous population."

Few American designers speak Italian or French, but language alone wouldn't guarantee properly made clothes and timely shipments from a European factory. Small-volume lines often get pushed to the end of production

For high fashion companies, what seems to work abroad is a distinct style. In London, for example, Harvey Nichols, stocks Isaac Mizrahi, Donna Karan, Michael Kors and Calvin Klein, among others.

"What we've done is be extremely selective about which American products we carry," says Amanda Verdant, fashion-buying director. "They have to have a point of view that's different from sportswear in Europe."

If there's one thing America knows how to do well, it is mass-produced sportswear on the order of Liz Claiborne.

"We have a history of really knowing how to sell mass America and we've done terribly at exporting that concept," says Millstein. As it happens, Claiborne has recently established a European subsidiary in London and begun shipping spring clothes to British stores.

But for America's top designers, there still remains the big question: Does Europe need them? In a recent conversation, Donatella Givombelli, the head of Genny Moda, said she has discussed production with several U.S. designers but invariably reached the same conclusion.

"It's really a problem of timing," she said. "By March 25 everyone in Europe has bought what they need for fall. They don't want to wait another month for the Americans."

CATHY HORYN is fashion editor of The Washington Post.

JEAN-LOUIS SCHERRER

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Gray Image Gives U.S. Retailers the Blues

By Alexander Lobrano

NEW YORK — American retailers are approaching the '90s with new wisdom. Selling strategies and the trials of the current recession notwithstanding, a guarded optimism. Many believe that renewed consumer interest in fashion will not only show up soon at the cash register but also shore up their often still precarious finances when it does.

It is generally agreed, too, that the shakeout caused by corporate takeovers and a recent nearly chronic turnover among top store executives is also subsiding, to be replaced by a more traditional challenge: the competition posed by other stores, especially as everyone fights to win the dollars of America's prime-earning class — the baby-boomers, those peak-earning shoppers from 25 to 40.

Many of these fashion- and value-conscious young Americans never developed their parents' habit of department store shopping or loyalty to one or two stores, and it is a broadly held view in the industry that the country's biggest department stores have to renew and revitalize their images and improve their service if they're to be successful in wooing these customers away from the boutiques and specialty chains that have built their reputations by excelling on both points. This includes not only such chic national-known boutiques as Ultimeo in Chicago or Charivari in New York, but also the Gap, the California-based chain that has had a huge success with the reasonably priced, basic clothing (T-shirts, turtlenecks, jeans and shirts) that it promotes through a highly styled advertising campaign.

"Service will continue to be the prime factor in the market," said Andy Basile, vice president and fashion director of Bergdorf Goodman, the Manhattan specialty store. "If it's not there, you'll lose customers. Trying to change a store image is a volatile thing. It takes a very long time to build an image, so you need to hold on to some part of the existing image when you operate on it. It's really more a question of enhancing an image than actually altering it."

The need for most big American department stores to revive and refocus themselves for the '90s in the minds of consumers is apparent to anyone who has gone shopping in the United States lately.

"If you parachuted into a typical U.S. department store today,

you wouldn't know what store you were in," said Bob Pressman, executive vice president of finance at Barneys New York, a Manhattan-based chain of specialty stores, that has recently expanded into such trend-sensitive upper-middle-class American suburbs as Westport, Connecticut, and Costa Mesa, California and which is also planning to open huge new stores in Beverly Hills and Manhattan, and a store in Chicago, in 1993.

"It all comes down to an identity," Mr. Pressman said. "Every

There is a pitched battle being fought to be different.

marketing or consumer company must have a strong, vital identity, and the great financial pressures on the big stores have made their merchandising conservative and very much the same."

The pitched battle to be different that is currently being waged among retailers in Manhattan may foretell not only who survives but who thrives during the '90s in other American cities.

In this ferociously competitive market, the upbeat assessments of many store executives are being strongly put to the test. Though a depressed local economy is certainly an important contributing factor, the lavish new men's-wear store that Bergdorf Goodman opened on Fifth Avenue last year is widely believed to be selling significantly below expectations, and with many department stores suffering from Detroit syndrome — no one will buy anything that isn't on sale — the city is about to

see the arrival or revival of a new round of highbrow contenders.

Galleries Lafayette, the French department store, is ignoring the American failure of its Parisian rival Printemps, which founded in Denver, and plans to open in Manhattan this year; Henri Bendel, the legendary Fifty-Seventh Street boutique, has just moved to much larger quarters on Fifth Avenue, and the new boutiques of European designers continue to sprout up all over town. Barneys New York's store-in-progress at Madison Avenue and Sixtieth Street will be the largest new store in the city in 60 years, and Charivari is soon to announce another local expansion.

Elsewhere, Giorgio Armani is planning to open a boutique in Boston, a move that underlines the growing interest that European designers have in bringing their own boutiques to markets beyond such traditional fashion centers as New York and Los Angeles.

What all of this expansion assumes is ever-growing retail sales, or failing competitors, and as one department store executive observed, "All the fancy new services at all the stores — concierges and all of that — are loss leaders, and any store that puts its hopes too closely to this very American idea of Euro-luxe and Euro-service is going to get into trouble."

The real question just a month after Carter Hawley Hale, the huge Los Angeles-based chain that includes The Broadway, The Emporium and several other stores, went into Chapter 11, or bankruptcy proceedings, is which of America's large department stores are going to survive?

The tumult in American retailing has also been a worrisome preoccupation for many European designers, especially the more vul-

nerable newcomers, who are, of course, eager to see the industry become more stable.

Many Europeans express disgust at the corporate takeover phenomenon and are eager to see the stores exhibit a fresh understanding of their market.

Another challenge that retailers are grappling with, beyond the service and image formula that is so widely agreed to be the key to the '90s, is the antiquity or indifference of more affluent American consumers toward fashion.

Reasons offered for this anti-fashion attitude range from the higher prices for imported clothing that have been precipitated by the dollar's weakness, the enormous personal indebtedness of American consumers, and a new national mood of moderation after the ostentatious self-indulgence of the Reagan years, but the most important factor is that the American impulse to style a look of one's own has become a currently very fashionable habit.

"Our customer is somebody who doesn't want the ordinary, which includes movie stars and also working people who don't have to go to an office in a striped suit," said Jon Weiser, president of Charivari, the chain of six Manhattan fashion boutiques.

Fashion will always be the engine of retail growth for American stores, however, and many foresee a near-term return to interest in designer clothing. "In the long run, people who lived through the '70s and '80s will not forget the beauty of designer clothing, and this market will be healthy again as soon as the economy improves," said Andy Basile of Bergdorf Goodman.

ALEXANDER LOBRANO is a Paris-based journalist.



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THE MONEY REPORT

N.Y. Property After the Fall

By John J. Duffy

MANHATTAN apartment prices suffered their worst declines in recent history in 1990, but brokers say that the worst is over and that right now might be the best time in years to make a deal.

According to a new study by the Corcoran Group, a New York real estate firm, the average Manhattan apartment price fell by 17.3 percent last year.

The worst price falls came in Greenwich Village, where two-bedroom apartments plunged by 34.4 percent in value. Showing less damage were one-bedroom apartments on Fifth Avenue, which slipped by only 3.5 percent.

But in all neighborhoods, buyers appear to be setting the prices. The Corcoran study found that the "negotiability factor"—the difference between the asking price and the sales price—expanded to 23.5 percent from 14.8 percent a year earlier as sellers slashed prices to get deals done. In many cases deals couldn't get done at any price.

Where do we go from here? Experts say the price decline has stopped but that the market is not likely to improve any time soon.

"We are finally at the bottom," said Barbara Corcoran, president of the property firm. "I don't think we will see any improvement over

the next few months because we have a 40 percent oversupply."

Because of the oversupply, she said, it is and will continue to be a buyers' market. "A lot of buyers are walking away from deals with big smiles on their faces," she said.

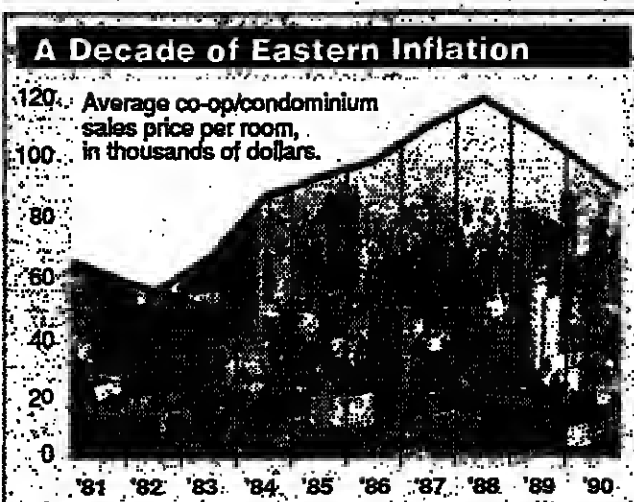
Charles A. Shorter, senior vice president of Real Estate Research Corp., agreed. For investors interested in Manhattan apartments "the time to begin the search is now," he said. "If we are at the bottom, we are certainly close to it in Manhattan."

The collapse of the Manhattan property market began after the October 1987 stock market collapse, which touched off a depression on Wall Street that has so far claimed more than 20,000 jobs. The retrenchment on Wall Street has since spread to other financial services such as insurance companies and banks. The easy credit that had been flowing into Manhattan property at a torrid rate and propping up prices has all but dried up.

The sharp price decline last year followed a decade of wild price appreciation. In 1981, according to Corcoran, the average Manhattan cooperative apartment sold for \$61,500 per room. That price had mounted to \$118,000 per room by 1988 before prices began to crumble.

At the end of 1990, the average Manhattan coop was priced at \$89,349 per room.

Mr. Shorter of Real Estate Research said the average price ap-



ciation of 10 percent to 12 percent a year in the 1980s was about twice the historical rate. "What we are seeing is a kind of return to normalcy," he said.

The Manhattan property market has long been volatile because of the lack of cheap land. But prices had not crashed since the early 1970s budget crisis and many brokers said they could not remember a time when prices had gone down so far so fast.

"A lot of us grew up at a time when New York apartment prices only did one thing—go up," said a real estate analyst with a major New York bank. "This has surprised everyone—the banks, the brokers and most of all the sellers."

In today's market, buyers are being particularly choosy. According to the Corcoran study, the average buyer in 1990 looked at 24 apartments over a 5.3-month period. That compared with 18 apartments over a 5-month period in 1989.

In 1990, buyers of Manhattan apartments actually spent 4.5 per-

cent less than they budgeted for their property. That compared with 4.3 percent above budget in 1989, according to the study.

The Corcoran study collected information from the sales of 4,000 luxury apartments in 10 different Manhattan neighborhoods. The apartments ranged in size from 3 to 14 rooms and in price from \$150,000 to \$2.7 million.

And sellers are counting brokers much more assiduously, sometimes offering commissions as high as 11 percent to find a buyer for an unwanted apartment.

Some brokers say that the market is likely to pick up slightly in the months ahead because lower prices combined with lower mortgage rates have suddenly increased the pool of qualified buyers. Fixed-rate 30-year mortgages can now be had for less than 10 percent for apartments and sometimes less than 9 percent for single-family homes.

John J. Duffy is a financial reporter based in New York.

The Bust Arrives In California

By Conrad de Aenlle

THE recession is mild, economists say, and may almost be over, but it has managed to bring California's real estate boom to a grinding halt and send home prices lower, something that never happened during the sharp downturn of the early 1980s.

The decline last year in the median price of existing single-family homes in the state was small—0.8 percent to \$194,010—but it was significant coming after a decade of explosive growth in which the average home nearly doubled in value.

In fact, except for a negligible decline of one-tenth of a percentage point in 1984, long after the economic hard pulled out of recession, home prices rose every year in the previous nine, according to figures provided by the California Association of Realtors.

If prices are slumping, sales are plummeting. Home sales fell 17.1 percent last year, after a fall of 4.3 percent in 1989. Before that, there were six straight years of increases.

The market for new homes is also doing poorly. Kaufman & Broad, the state's largest developer of single-family houses, said it expects its revenues to fall this year and is trying to ferret out buyers by offering 30-year mortgages with a fixed rate of 8 1/2 percent, about a point below market rates.

The slump is touching more than just sellers and their brokers. Foreclosures and delinquencies in California's biggest mortgage lender rose about 60 percent last year from the year before.

Just two years ago, the housing market was a seller's dream come true. The papers carried stories of homeowners looking out their windows and seeing squadrons of real estate agents leaving from their tripe-parked Mercedes-Benzes, desperately outbidding each other and sometimes offering way above a seller's asking price.

In fact, during the buying frenzy of 1988 and '89, home prices rose more than 35 percent in the state. That, analysts say now, was the beginning of the end of the boom.

"You can't have prices go up at that rate with incomes going up at six, seven, eight percent and have a viable market for very long," said Leslie Appleton-Young, vice president of research and economics at the realtors' association.

She was quick to explain, though, that the downturn was more gradual than the last period of falling prices, in the early 1980s. Back then, growth was strangled by mortgage rates that touched 17 percent. They are under 10 percent now.

"The market is nowhere near as bad as it was in '81-'82," she said, adding that since then, even counting last year, homeowners' equity has risen by 20.4 percent annually, assuming a 20 percent down payment.

Anyway, thanks to the market's stumble, she said, trying to put the best face on the situation, "affordability has gone up sharply in the last year and a half."

Maybe that's true, but Jonathan Gray, a research analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein in New York, said that the market still is by no means affordable enough and that prices need to come down some more.

He said that the median price of a home in Los Angeles County would have to fall from about \$212,000 to \$130,000 over the next five years to be as affordable as homes in the rest of the country.

He conceded, though, that there are factors that make a home in Southern California worth relatively more than a home in Urbana, Illinois, or Missoula, Montana, and that he does not think prices will fall so calamitously.

As long as homeowners don't mind staying put and can make their mortgage payments, the declines in valuation that may be ahead in California probably do not matter much. But in times of rising

unemployment, such as now, the risk increases of foreclosure or a forced home sale.

Indeed, Mary Trigg, a spokeswoman for Home Savings of America, the largest maker of home mortgages in California, said that the value of foreclosures and delinquent loans at the savings and loan association grew to \$903.3 million at the end of last year from \$564.8 million a year earlier.

Part of that increase, she said, was due to a rise in the amount of home loans written several years earlier, but also, "We're in a recession."

That recession, said Bernard Sandalow, a spokesman for Kaufman & Broad, is why "the consumer has become more value driven," one way of saying that the consumer is looking for a cheaper place to live.

"Prices are really too high," he said. "People are getting a reality check."

Reality has hit Kaufman & Broad hard in California. The company's operating income in the state fell last year to \$30 million from \$102 million in 1989.

The developer sells just the kind of homes that "value-driven" buyers might be looking for, but the slump in sales of existing homes is spilling over into the market for new homes.

"When people can't sell the homes they're in," Mr. Sandalow said, "they can't buy one from us."

He said that Kaufman & Broad expected to sell about as many homes this year as last in California, 3,026, but that revenues would fall from last year's \$664 million because the average home price will be lower in 1991.

But he pointed out that slumps come and go quite often in the industry, just as booms do: "It's a cyclical business. There are up years followed by down years."

So far in the first quarter, business has been better than it was this time last year, thanks to the current mortgage promotion.

"We're cautiously optimistic," he said, but it's too soon to say definitively that the market has hit the trough.

Ms. Young of the realtors' association agreed that it was difficult to know whether the downturn was closer to the end than the beginning. "I don't think there's any way of telling until it's over."

She did say that there were certain signs that would indicate a much more protracted slide. One was a sharper drop in transactions, measured by unsold inventories, the number of months it would take at the present sales rate to sell all the homes on the market.

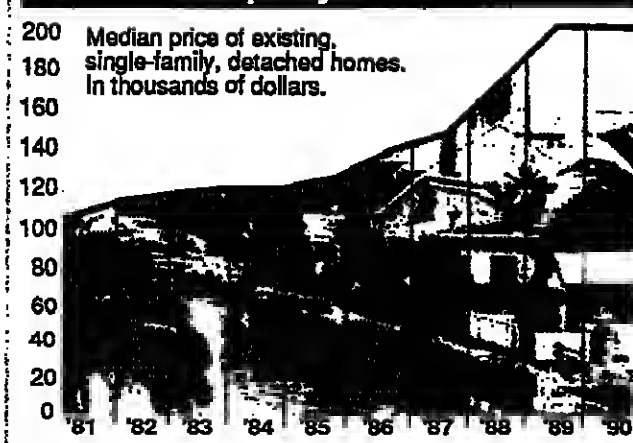
In 1989, unsold inventories were at 6.5 months on average. They rose last year to 11.7 months. In 1982, at the peak of the last recession, unsold inventories topped out at 20 months.

That level, Ms. Young said, will be "bad if it happens now," but she doesn't think it will.

"We expect to see stronger sales in the second half of 1991" because of an expected drop in mortgage rates, she said.

For an investor considering buying a home in California, Ms. Young advised caution and patience. "The current market shows the danger of getting into real es-

Western Property's Showdown



tate very short term. If he has a very short holding period of six months to a year, I don't know if this is the time."

She said that if someone were interested in buying property and holding it for a number of years, "I would come, look around and talk to someone who's knowledgeable about the area."

Mr. Gray of Sanford C. Bernstein would advise that would-be buyer not to bother and to put his money

into U.S. equities or tax-exempt bonds instead.

His projections call for the average Los Angeles County home bought for about \$212,000 in late 1990 to fall in value to \$200,000 before rising to around \$225,000 in 1995.

"In real terms, it will deflate," he said, "and so the opportunity cost will make residential real estate, for the first time in a while, a bad investment."

BRIEFCASE

U.K.-Listed Fund Targets Mexico and South America

International investors take note. The newly launched Baring Puma fund will invest in South America (principally the bigger markets at first, such as Mexico, Brazil and Chile), be listed and traded in London, and have its investment headquarters in Boston.

The Baring group claims links with South American investment going back 214 years: "Barings has a long-term strategic investment view of South America. The shift to democracy and the fading requirements of Latin American corporates have led to an open-arm approach from some finance ministers, who generally want equity funding rather than debt," said Jeremy Campbell-Lamerton, the Baring director of Latin American investment.

The good performances of Chile and Mexico in the difficult year of 1990 offered a role model for the rest of the continent, according to Mr. Campbell-Lamerton.

Minimum investment in the fund, which closes its lists 5 P.M. Tuesday, London time, is \$10,500 for investors using a broker. Otherwise, the minimum is 5,000 shares at \$10.50 each.

Investors pay initial charges of 50 cents per share, plus an annual fee of 1.65 percent, levied quarterly.

For more information, call Baring in London (44 71) 621 1500.

Mortgage Corp. Postpones Proposed Loan Book Sale

The proposed sale of the loan book of The Mortgage Corporation, a subsidiary of Salomon Brothers, as featured in Briefcase of Feb. 23-24, has been postponed.

The loans were to have been redeemed through small property companies offering tax relief under the terms of Britain's Busi-

ness Expansion Scheme. The launch has been delayed till after the British budget on March 19.

New Australian Nugget Offered to Coin Investors

Goldcorp Australia has launched the biggest-ever mass-marketed gold coin targeted at individual investors. The new Australian

The wholesale premium on the new large coin, which is 99.99 percent pure gold, is 2 percent—a relatively low figure for coins.

Goldcorp Australia is also producing 10 ounce and 2 ounce coins, and plans to introduce the same three coinage weights in silver and platinum within the year.

Senate Bill Would Ease Rules on IRA Tax Benefits

Vowing that "we're going to bring the IRA out of retirement," two U.S. senators proposed legislation this past week that would ease restrictions on tax benefits for Americans who contribute to individual retirement accounts and in some cases do away with penalties for early withdrawals.

The measure, which is backed by an overwhelming majority of senators but may have a tougher time clearing the House because of its potentially high cost, would allow withdrawals before age 59½ to buy a first home or to pay educational expenses or devastating medical bills.

It would also reopen the \$2,000 tax write-off to middle- and upper-income taxpayers covered by a company pension plan that was taken away under the Tax Reform Act of 1986. As things stand now, an IRA deduction is reduced or eliminated for married couples earning more than \$40,000 and individuals making more than \$25,000.

Another provision would let investors forgo the initial \$2,000 write-off, while still earning income tax free, in exchange for freeing up the money after just five years.

The sponsors, Lloyd Bentsen, a Texas Democrat, and William V. Roth Jr., a Republican from Delaware, said their bill was intended to boost America's anemic savings rate. After the restrictions passed in 1986, they said, contributions to IRA accounts fell by 70 percent the following year and the nation's savings rate plummeted.

The idea is to make economies of scale.

The Glisten of Gold

Gold prices per ounce (London official fixing) in U.S. dollars.

Year	Price (U.S. dollars)
'80	408
'81	404
'82	400
'83	396
'84	392
'85	388
'86	384
'87	380
'88	376
'89	372
'90	368
'91	364
'92	360
'93	356
'94	352
'95	348

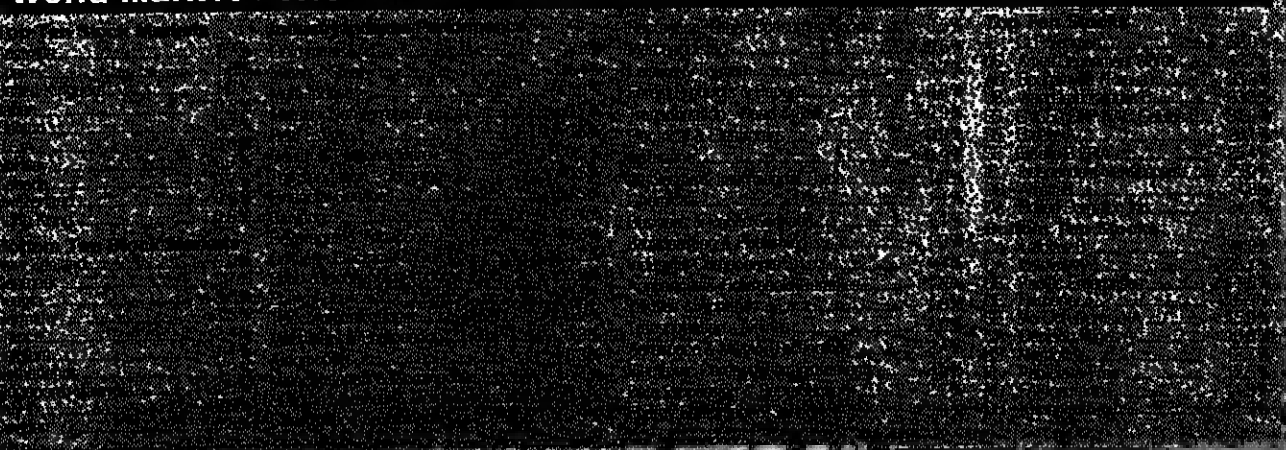
Source: Merrill Lynch

Nugget weighs 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds), has a diameter of 75 millimeters (3 inches) and is 12.9 millimeters thick.

"Our goal is to provide investors with more precious metal for their dollar," said Don Mackay-Coghlin, chief executive of Goldcorp Australia.

The idea is to make economies of scale.

World Market Performances Over the Week



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SPORTS

Swenson Takes 5th Iditarod

The Associated Press
NOME, Alaska — While other mushers turned back in a blizzard, Rick Swenson plowed ahead through thigh-high snowdrifts to win a record fifth Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Friday.

Swenson and his dog team crossed the finish line on Front Street in Nome early Friday morning, winning in an unofficial time of 12 days, 16 hours and 34 minutes.

The 1,631-mile (1,870-kilometer) race began in Anchorage on March 2. A record 75 mushers and more than 1,400 dogs competed.

About 500 cheering spectators stood on both sides of a snow-fenced chute at the finish, stomping their feet and trying to stay warm in the bitter cold.

Martin Buser, a Swiss-born musher, emerged from the blizzard to finish No. 2, crossing the finish line two hours behind the winner.

Buser has completed six Iditarods and came in third in 1988.

The defending champion and four-time winner, Susan Butcher, was headed toward a third-place finish.

Butcher had held a one-hour lead Thursday but lost it when she reversed course during a whiteout. Swenson and Buser gambled big on the weather, hoping their dog teams could find their way through the Arctic storm.

Butcher, 1989 winner Joe Run-



Susan Butcher, pushing toward a third-place finish in the Iditarod.

yan and Tim Osmer had lost the trail and returned to the White Mountain checkpoint, 77 miles from the finish line. They headed out again Thursday night.

Wind in the White Mountain area Thursday gusted from 46 to 57 miles per hour, officials said.

The Anchorage-to-Nome race recreates a historic 1925 relay by dog sled carrying lifesaving serum during a diphtheria epidemic.

2 Veterans, 2 New Beginnings

Hershiser Tries To Beat the Odds

By Thomas Boswell

Washington Post Service
VERO BEACH, Florida — The first time Orel Hershiser cried was when he regained consciousness last April 27. Maybe it was the aftereffect of the morphine, he says. But, mostly, he thinks he broke down and sobbed at the sight of his right arm and shoulder after surgery. That's when reality hit him. He'd suffered an injury from which no baseball pitcher had ever recovered.

"When I woke up with my arm in a brace, that's when I said: 'Oh, no. It has really happened,'" Hershiser said last week. "You go in as a whole person. And you come out with a body part that you have counted on so long hanging limp over your head."

No member of the Los Angeles Dodgers is more realistic about his chance of a comeback this season than Hershiser. "If I pitch again, it's a flat-out miracle," he says, standing in the Dodgers clubhouse, fresh with sweat from throwing 88-mile per hour (142-kilometer per hour) fastballs.

On the other hand, nobody is more optimistic than Hershiser. When he hears his catcher's glove crack like it's full of firecrackers once more, he has to restrain himself. "Today is not important," he reminds himself.

After 11 months of rehabilitation, after an experimental surgery that may become known by his name, he doesn't want to blow it all in the 12th month.

The description of Hershiser's surgery is rather mundane. Frank Jobe reconstructed the anterior capsule and tightened the ligaments in his right shoulder. Sounds easy. And it is. Except that for a pitcher's career, such repairs always have been disastrous.

"In the past, there was no way to access the inside of the shoulder without cutting the shoulder muscles on the outside," Hershiser said. "When you take down a muscle, it loses its memory and strength, even when you reattach it."

"Before I ever got hurt, Dr. Jobe had designed a new surgery, and built all the equipment, with new retractors designed, to get inside the shoulder without cutting the muscles," Hershiser said with the sort of respect in his voice that some people use when discussing Her-

shiser's 59 consecutive scoreless innings in 1988.

"Just when I got hurt, a new surgery had been invented for what I had. If I'd hurt myself earlier, or the surgery had been created later, my career would be over now. That's miraculous to me."

Golfer Jerry Pate and quarterback Jim McMahon have had similar surgery, but never a pitcher. Jobe's prognosis for Hershiser is dramatic. "He says, 'It will work or it won't,'" Hershiser says. Translation: By midseason, he'll be back or he'll be gone.

That's why he's taking it slowly. "I'm not rushing this one," he says. "The problem isn't throwing on the side. It's game conditions. It's the wear and tear of 'throw hard, stop, throw hard, stop' that gets you."

That and heroism. Hershiser and Kirk Gibson still are weighing the glory of 1988, when they pushed themselves far beyond sensible physical limits and were canonized for it — against a future of pain. Gibson's knees and hamstrings were good for only half a year at a time in '89 and '90 and now he is gone to Los Angeles for Kansas City. Gibson, 33, with less than 200 career homers, and Hershiser, 32, with less than 100 victories, are holding their breath.

And learning about mortality. "Before my head leaves the pillow every morning, I think: 'Where is my arm? Where is my elbow? How do they feel?'" says Hershiser. "Then my next thought is usually, 'I moved! Without pain!'"

Along the halls here in Dodger town are floor-to-ceiling photographs of the team's heroes. From Branch Rickey's stare to Jackie Robinson's spikes, from Sandy Koufax's brief perfection to Duke Snider's grace, they are there along the walls, around every corner.

No mural photo is more prominent than that of Hershiser leaping above his teammates, fist pumping. It is an instant worthy of that '88 World Series title.

Since that October day, the Dodgers have added Darryl Strawberry, Brett Butler, Ramon Martinez, Eddie Murray, Juan Samuel and Kal Daniels while losing little of major value, except Gibson.

Yet this whole Dodgers camp waits for news of just one man. With him, they think they will win the World Series. Without him, they doubt they can do it.

In a sense, Orel Hershiser waits for news, too. Each day, he reaches out to recapture more of the past, knowing that if he reaches too far or too fast he may have no future.

Angels See Parker As a Plus at Plate

The Associated Press

CHANDLER, Arizona — Two-thirds of the outfield of the 70s is now with the California Angels.

Milwaukee traded 17-year veteran Dave Parker to the Angels on Thursday for outfielder Dante Bichette and a player to be named later.

Parker joins Dave Winfield on the Angels. The two were frequent National League All-Stars in the

1970s, when Parker was with the Pittsburgh Pirates and Winfield with the San Diego Padres.

Parker, 39, was acquired by Milwaukee as a free agent in December 1989. He batted .285 with 21 homers and 97 runs batted in in 157 games last season as a designated hitter.

"We needed left-handed power to balance our lineup," said the Angels' manager, Doug Rader, who indicated that Parker would be the designated hitter.

Parker was named the American League's outstanding designated hitter of the year for a second consecutive year in 1990. He has a .293 career batting average with 328 homers, 1,434 RBIs and 2,592 hits.

Elsewhere:

• The Oakland Athletics have told Rickey Henderson that it is time to get ready for the season.

Oakland's general manager, Sandy Alderson, met with Henderson on Thursday and recited the team's position after failing to come up with a compromise solution to Henderson's demand for a contract extension. "He either plays with the Oakland A's, or he doesn't play at all," Alderson said.

In Thursday's meeting, Alderson's first offer to shorten Henderson's contract by one year, making him eligible for arbitration before the 1993 season. Alderson said Henderson countered by asking the A's to cut two years off the contract, but when Alderson said the A's would agree to do that, Henderson changed his mind.

• Rick Cerone of the New York Mets broke his right finger when he tried to catch a fastball thrown by Dwight Gooden.

• The Phillies' Dickie Thon went four for four at the plate and raised his batting average to .688 as Philadelphia beat Pittsburgh, 4-2, in Bradenton, Florida.

SIDELINES

IOC Empowers Group in South Africa

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The International Olympic Committee group leaving for South Africa next week can make provisional accords to normalize sport in the country, the IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, said in an interview released Friday.

La Suisse newspaper quoted Samaranch as saying that if the fact-finding mission on the state of apartheid is successful, South Africa could return to the international sports stage this year.

He said seeing South African athletes at the Barcelona Olympics next year "is our dearest wish. But let us not be too greedy."

Samaranch added: "If the commission which is going to Johannesburg returns with draft accords one could envisage the participation of athletes from this country at the world athletics championships this year in Japan."

Out of the Fog, Into Jail

LAKE CHARLES, Louisiana (AP) — A jockey accused of hiding under cover of dense fog until he could regain a horse race and win easily, was convicted of a misdemeanor in a trial here.

Sylvester Carmouche Jr. was convicted of attempted theft of \$90 from the results of winning the 11th race at Delta Downs on Jan. 11, 1990. The 31-year-old rider was fined \$250 plus court costs and sentenced to 30 days in jail, all but 10 of which were suspended.

Carmouche was aboard Landing Officer, a 23-1 shot, which appeared to have come within 1 1/2 seconds of the track record in winning the race. However, Carmouche was accused of slipping out of the race near the start, waiting in the fog until the eight other horses rounded the track and then slipping back ahead of the pack near the final turn.

Americans Make Sumo History

TOKYO (AP) — For 2,000 years, sumo wrestling has been Japan's national sport. But for a few minutes on Friday, it was an all-American affair.

Up-and-coming star Akebono, known back home in Hawaii as Chad Rowan, assured himself a place in the sumo record books as the first foreigner to win a top-division bout against another foreigner. Akebono had squared off against fellow Hawaiian Konishiki, or Salevaa Fuuuli Aianaoe, the highest-ranked foreigner ever.

"It's like a dream," said Akebono after beating the 522-pound (237-kilogram) Konishiki in the annual Spring Grand Sumo Tournament.

Bulls Bump Blazers to No. 2 in NBA

CHICAGO (AP) — For the first time this season, the Chicago Bulls are the top team in the National Basketball Association.

With 15 victories in their last 16 games, the Michael Jordan-powered Bulls have moved to the top of the league with a 46-15 record, a half-game better than Portland and a game better than Boston in the race for the homecourt advantage in the upcoming NBA playoffs.

On Wednesday, the Bulls, with Jordan scoring 39 points, edged Milwaukee, 102-101, while the Trail Blazers lost to Phoenix, 116-108. It marked the first time this season Portland did not have the league's best record.

• John MacLeod earned his 700th coaching victory in the National Basketball Association as the New York Knicks beat Miami, 125-121, Thursday night. He is the eighth NBA coach to reach the milestone.

For the Record

Mel Rosen, head track coach for the United States in the 1992 Olympics, said he will retire this summer after 27 years as head coach at Auburn University. Rosen, 62, said he wants to devote all his time to the Olympics.

Dynamo Moscow secured its second consecutive title in the Soviet ice hockey championships with a 2-2 tie with Spartak Moscow on Thursday.

(AP)

Quotable

• Houston Astro pitcher Mark Portugal, commenting before his team's annual sliding drill for pitchers: "Thank God for guaranteed contracts."

Indy in Australia, Despite Red Flags

The Associated Press

SURFERS PARADISE, Australia — After months of political wrangling and in-fighting, Indy cars finally roared Friday around the streets of Surfers Paradise.

The Gold Coast Indy, the race that almost did not happen, got under way with practice and qualifying sessions on a spectacular beachfront track that was judged a success by the drivers.

"The biggest surprise is that there were no surprises," said Bobby Rahal, a former Indianapolis 500 winner. "It's a fun race track."

Sunday's race, the first Championship Auto Racing Teams event to be held outside North America, will go ahead despite the threat of suspensions by FISA, the international governing body of motor sport.

FISA has refused to sanction the race and said drivers and officials face possible bans. FISA objects to Championship Auto Racing Teams operating outside North America in competition with its own Formula One series.

Drivers and officials have defied the threat and said

they were impressed with both the track and the infrastructure for the race.

Most drivers said they were ignoring the threat of suspension from international events.

"I'm sick and tired of the politics being played in this affair," said Mario Andretti. "As drivers we are contracted to drive wherever CART goes."

Eddie Cheever took the provisional pole Friday for the season-opening Indy race, driving a Chevrolet-powered Lola around the 2.793-mile (4.5-kilometer) course at 99.933 miles per hour (160.792 kilometers per hour).

That was just a few ticks quicker than Andretti's 99.589 miles per hour.

Brabham Wins the Pole

Australia's Geoff Brabham, driving a Nissan, will start on the pole position for Saturday's 12-hour endurance race in Sebring, Florida. Agence France Presse reported. Brabham's co-drivers are his brother Gary and Derek Daly of Britain.

BOOKS

THE LAUGHING SUTRA

By Mark Salzman. 263 pages. \$18.95. Random House, 201 East 50th Street, New York, N. Y. 10022.

Reviewed by Allen Appel

MARK SALZMAN'S first book, "Iron & Silk," published several years ago, chronicled his experiences teaching English and studying martial arts in China. A graduate of Yale with a degree in Chinese language and literature, Salzman has been studying things Chinese from the age of 13. He has brought his learning and experience to bear in "The Laughing Sutra," his first novel. Salzman's work has not been in vain. This is a wonderful book.

Other writers have had abiding fascinations with the Chinese people and culture, but I would venture to say that very few of them would have had Salzman's grace and style. His narrative, which held me from the very first sentence, is expressed in the fluid tones of a master storyteller. "In the seventh year of the People's Republic of China (1956), in a remote village in Yunnan Province, Kuo Hsiao-mei gave birth to a son with extraordinarily well-developed carpal bones."

Told in the cadences of a Chinese fairy tale, the story is a rich blend of fantasy, philosophy, history and romance. As well as being very funny.

The child with the carpal bones (long car-

pal bones are a sign of wisdom in China) is Hsiao-ching, and it is his quest, his journey from China to America, that is the heart of the novel.

Hsiao-ching is raised by the old monk Wei-ching, who has set himself the lifelong task of reading, copying, and assembling a complete collection of all the major Buddhist scriptures. By the time the child Hsiao-ching is delivered into his care, the monk lacks but one scroll, the rare and elusive Laughing Sutra. This sutra, of which only a single copy is rumored to exist, when read and understood is said to instill both instant enlightenment and physical immortality.

Unfortunately, the scroll containing the sutra was purchased and taken away years before by an American collector. It now resides in the San Francisco headquarters of the Dharma Institute, an obscure, but very New Age Buddhist organization.

The story begins in pre-Nixon China. In 1966 the 10-year-old Hsiao-ching is dragged into the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution as a Red Guard. After only days in the ranks of the True Soldiers, his unit is destroyed by the People's Liberation Army. Chairman Mao, all his political enemies now conquered, has sent the army to bring an end to the Revolution. The guiltless Hsiao-ching is sentenced in a 10-year stint as an agricultural worker on a remote commune in Hunan. Finally, in 1976, after the Gang of Four have been overthrown, Hsiao-ching is released. Now 20 years

old, he makes his way back to the old monk.

Wei-ching, lying on his cot, completely crippled by arthritis, has patiently awaited Hsiao-ching throughout the years, over giving up hope.

Hsiao-ching decides to undertake the pilgrimage and find the Laughing Sutra. He decides to do this not for the adventure, or because he thinks that the sutra has any value, but because he respects and loves the old man.

Hsiao-ching is joined on his journey by the fabulous Mr. Sun, an immortal warrior who wields an iron staff and wears thousand-year-old leather armor. Together, they break out of Communist China in a boxcar full of pigs, and make their way west. The quest is begun.

As might be expected, they meet a wide range of unusual characters and undergo interesting and arduous adventures. Along the way, Salzman manages to skewer at least a full herd of sacred cows, both Chinese and American, and the culture clash resonates and echoes with wit, irony and wisdom.

In the end, Hsiao-ching learns many truths, not the least of which is that fundamental quester's axiom: It is not the goal, but the journey, the search, that is most important. By accompanying Hsiao-ching on his journey, the fortunate reader will find himself entranced, entertained and very definitely enlightened.

Allen Appel, whose most recent novel is "Till the End of Time," wrote this for The Washington Post.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

IN A Swiss Team event it is not uncommon for a team that is doing badly at the end of the first session to call it quits and head for an early night. It is rare to recover from a bad start, but with victory-point scoring it can be done.

After the first session of the New England Regional Swiss Team Championship in Cambridge, Massachusetts, a group from the New York metropolitan region had collected just 23 victory points out of a possible 60. But Michael Radin and Margie Gwozditzky, both of Manhattan, and Keith Garber of New Rochelle, New York, and Eileen Brenner and Michael Pickert, both of Livingston, New Jersey, chose to battle on.

With one match left to play, they were in third position, close behind the leaders, and the diagramed deal proved crucial.

Radin as North overbid slightly with a forcing one no-trump response followed by a jump to three hearts. He regretted his optimism when East doubled and ruffed dummy's diamond ace when that card was played on the king at the first trick.

But East shifted to a low spade. Colchamiro as South was able to win with the king and maneuver two ruffs in the dummy, one in each black suit. East could have vindicated his double by returning a trump at the second trick with another trump to follow later. As it was, the doubled game was made, and the Radin team squeezed through to win the title by two victory points.

NORTH			
♠	AKQ	♥	AJ10942
♦	A85423	♣	Q76
♠	AKQJ	♥	AJ10942
♦	AKQJ108	♣	AJ10942
♠	Q108	♥	AJ10942
♦	AKQJ108	♣	AJ10942
♠	Q108	♥	AJ10942
♦	AKQJ108	♣	AJ10942
♠	Q108	♥	AJ10942
♦	AKQJ108	♣	AJ10942

Neither side was vulnerable. The bidding: South 1♠, 2♥, 3♥, 4♥, 5♥, 6♥, 7♥, 8♥, 9♥, 10♥, 11♥, 12♥, 13♥, 14♥, 15♥, 16♥, 17♥, 18♥, 19♥, 20♥, 21♥, 22♥, 23♥, 24♥, 25♥, 26♥, 27♥, 28♥, 29♥, 30♥, 31♥, 32♥, 33♥, 34♥, 35♥, 36♥, 37♥, 38♥, 39♥, 40♥, 41♥, 42♥, 43♥, 44♥, 45♥, 46♥, 47♥, 48♥, 49♥, 50♥, 51♥, 52♥, 53♥, 54♥, 55♥, 56♥, 57♥, 58♥, 59♥, 60♥, 61♥, 62♥, 63♥, 64♥, 65♥, 66♥, 67♥, 68♥, 69♥, 70♥, 71♥, 72♥, 73♥, 74♥, 75♥, 76♥, 77♥, 78♥, 79♥, 80♥, 81♥, 82♥, 83♥, 84♥, 85♥, 86♥, 87♥, 88♥, 89♥, 90♥, 91♥, 92♥, 93♥, 94♥, 95♥, 96♥, 97♥, 98♥, 99♥, 100♥.

West led the diamond king.

PEANUTS



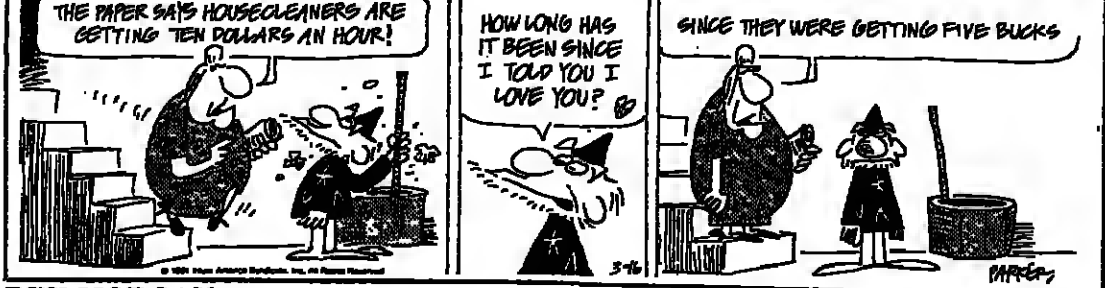
BEETLE BAILEY



ANDY CAPP



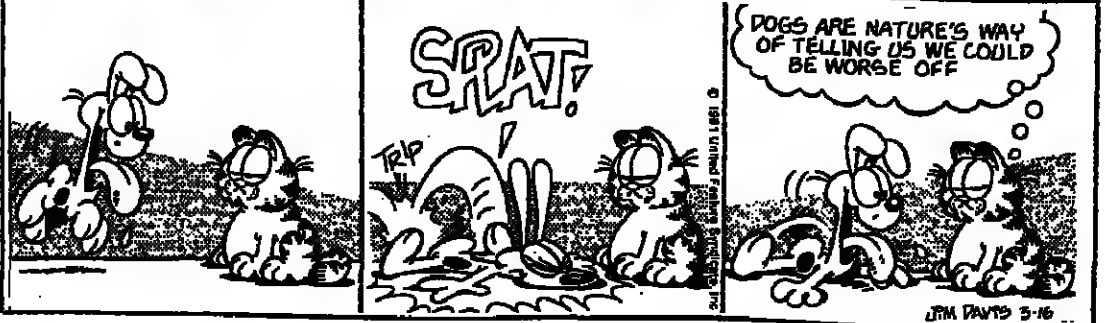
WIZARD OF ID



REX MORGAN



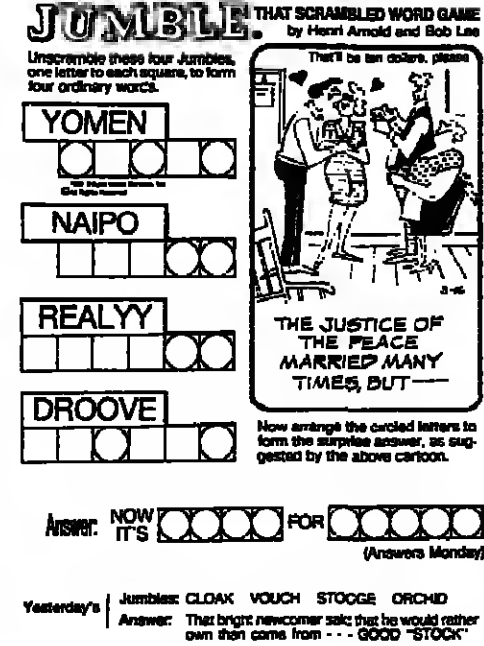
GARFIELD



DENNIS THE MENACE



JUMBLE



BLONDIE



SPORTS

NCAA Gets Rolling With Upsets

UCLA and Mississippi State Ousted in East Regional

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Penn State, making its first National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament appearance in 26 years, used its inside strength to continue the string of opening-round upsets, defeating fourth-seeded UCLA, 74-69, Friday in the opening round of the East Regional in Syracuse, New York.

Penn State's victory, coupled with Eastern Michigan's 76-56 upset of fifth-seeded Mississippi State, set up a second-round meeting between 12th- and 13th-seeded teams, a first for the tournament.

The upsets followed a night in which second-seeded Syracuse lost in the East and third-seeded Nebraska and sixth-seeded LSU fell in the Midwest.

Forwards James Daniels and DeRon Hayes helped Penn State defeat a nationally ranked opponent for the first time this season. Barnes scored 19 points and Hayes added 16 for the Nittany Lions (21-10).

Tracy Murray led UCLA (23-9) with 17 points. Don MacLean, third on the all-time UCLA scoring list, got 15 points but scored only three in the second half and was held to one rebound after getting into foul trouble.

Penn State sank nine of 14 free throws in the final two minutes to clinch the victory. UCLA, which was 17 of 26 from the field in the opening half, shot just 34 percent (11-of-32) in the second half.

Marques Kennedy had 22 points and 16 rebounds as Eastern Michigan toppled Mississippi State. Carl Thomas scored 16 points and twin brother Charles had nine for the Hornets (25-6).

In East Regional games on Thursday in College Park, Maryland, Rodney Monroe and Chris Corchiani scored 25 points apiece in North Carolina State's 114-85 rout of Southern Mississippi, and Mike Kilgore scored 25 points as Temple eliminated Purdue, 80-63.

Southeast Regional: Ron Hurry scored 21 points, Oliver Miller had 20 and the two dominated the rebounding on Friday, lifting top seed Arkansas to a 117-76 rout of Georgia State in Atlanta.

Georgia State, which turned around a losing season by winning the Trans American Athletic Conference tournament, built an early 13-4 lead with an 11-0 run.

It took Arkansas (32-3) until 8:33 before halftime to finally claim the lead, at 27-26. The Razorbacks were ahead by 52-35 by halftime and widened their lead to 30 points five minutes into the second half.

Georgia State (16-15), making its first NCAA tournament appearance, was paced by Chris Collier with 22 points and Phillip Luckey with 16.

Lee Mayberry scored 18 for Arkansas, which had six players score in double figures.

Also on Friday, Tarence Wheeler scored 21 of his 25 points in the second half and Isaac Austin had 25 as Arizona State rallied to beat Rutgers, 79-76. The

Richmond Shows Syracuse the Door

By Steve Berkowitz

Washington Post Service
COLLEGE PARK, Maryland — The University of Richmond, well accustomed to surprising powerful teams, pulled off one of college basketball's biggest postseason upsets as it ousted second-seeded Syracuse, 73-69, in the opening round of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's East Regional.

The 15th-seeded Spiders became the lowest-seeded team to win a first-round game since the tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1983.

Richmond (22-8) never trailed Thursday night and twice led by 10 points. The score was 62-52 with nine minutes to play, and the margin was eight with less than five minutes remaining. Nevertheless, Syracuse (26-6) had a chance to take the lead with about 1 1/2 minutes left and several chances to tie in the final minute.

The Orangemen's last gasp was a three-point field goal attempt from the deep left corner by sophomore guard Michael Edwards with about four seconds remaining. The shot was long, Mike Hopkins stepped on the sideline chasing the rebound and Richmond junior guard Curtis Blair clinched the victory with a free throw — the last of his team-high 18 points.

Junior guard Billy Owens led Syracuse with 22 points.

"I told them that great things can happen in basketball, but we almost have to play a flawless game," said Richmond's coach, Dick Tarrant, whose team will meet 10th-seeded Temple (22-9) on Saturday.

For the Orangemen, this was the second time in four seasons they have failed to advance beyond the second round after being seeded among the top 12 teams in the tournament. Seeded third in 1988, they lost to 11th-seeded Rhode Island in a second-round game.

Richmond, on the other hand, continued what has become a tradition of tournament surprises under Tarrant. In 1984, as No. 12 seed, it eliminated a Charles Barkley-led Auburn team in the first round.

In 1988, as a No. 13 seed, it dumped defending national champion Indiana and Georgia Tech.

But this time the Spiders did it with a team that has one senior and a starting lineup that includes three sophomores and a freshman.

The Orangemen looked tight at the start. They seemed confused by a 2-3 matchup zone defense, shot poorly and relied almost entirely on Owens for offense. Had it not been for some forceful offensive rebounding in the opening portion of the first half, they might not have even been in the game.

The Spiders, in contrast, came out for warm-ups smiling, laughing and exchanging hand slaps. It was almost as if they knew a secret.

"I said to the kids when we had our evening meal, if in 1988, No. 13 can defeat the defending national champion, then No. 15 can beat No. 2," Tarrant said.

That seedling was made in Kansas, but another matchup made in hoop heaven: Princeton versus Villanova, two teams that know how to eat the clock, use the court, find the open man. Princeton is coached by Pete Carril, who is short, dumpy, gruff, smokes cigars and is a Jersey guy. Villanova is coached by Rollie Massimino who is short, dumpy, gruff, smokes cigars and is a Jersey guy.

Both coaches have a history in this tournament. Carril takes Ivy League students, some of whom are actually paying for their education, and usually scares somebody every March. Massimino actually won this tournament six years ago, in one of the great games in history, slowing it down against Patrick Ewing and Georgetown.

CARRIL and Massimino coach the game the way it was played in high schools in New Jersey 30 and 40 years ago, when players took the shots assigned to them, and if they didn't, they sat out to Coach. The future of the sport is surely in teams like UNLV, with sensational athletes who are taught to take the ball toward the basket as soon as possible.

But Rollieball and Peteball must have some appeal because CBS, the network of the NCAA tournament, managed to schedule them in prime time on Friday night.

And why not? The game is played by athletes who come and go. But it is still coached by coaches.

Browning Wins Men's Skating, Ito Takes a Fall

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MUNICH — A day after Kurt Browning of Canada won the men's title with a program packed with triple jumps, Midori Ito of Japan on Friday fell over a barrier and was taken to the hospital in an accident-marred women's original program at the World Figure Skating Championships.

American Kristi Yamaguchi led and compatriot Tonya Harding was second entering Saturday's final free program. Ito was third and Surya Bonaly of France was fourth.

Ito, known for her high and powerful jumps, fell over the barrier into a television camera doing a combination jump. The 1989 champion did not appear seriously injured and continued her routine to finish third. Dr. Max Scheeyer, who examined Ito, said she suffered no cuts but had a few bruises.

"She was in some pain but told me she really wanted to skate tomorrow," Scheeyer said. "As far as I can see she should be able to. But she is going to have some X-rays at the hospital just to make sure."

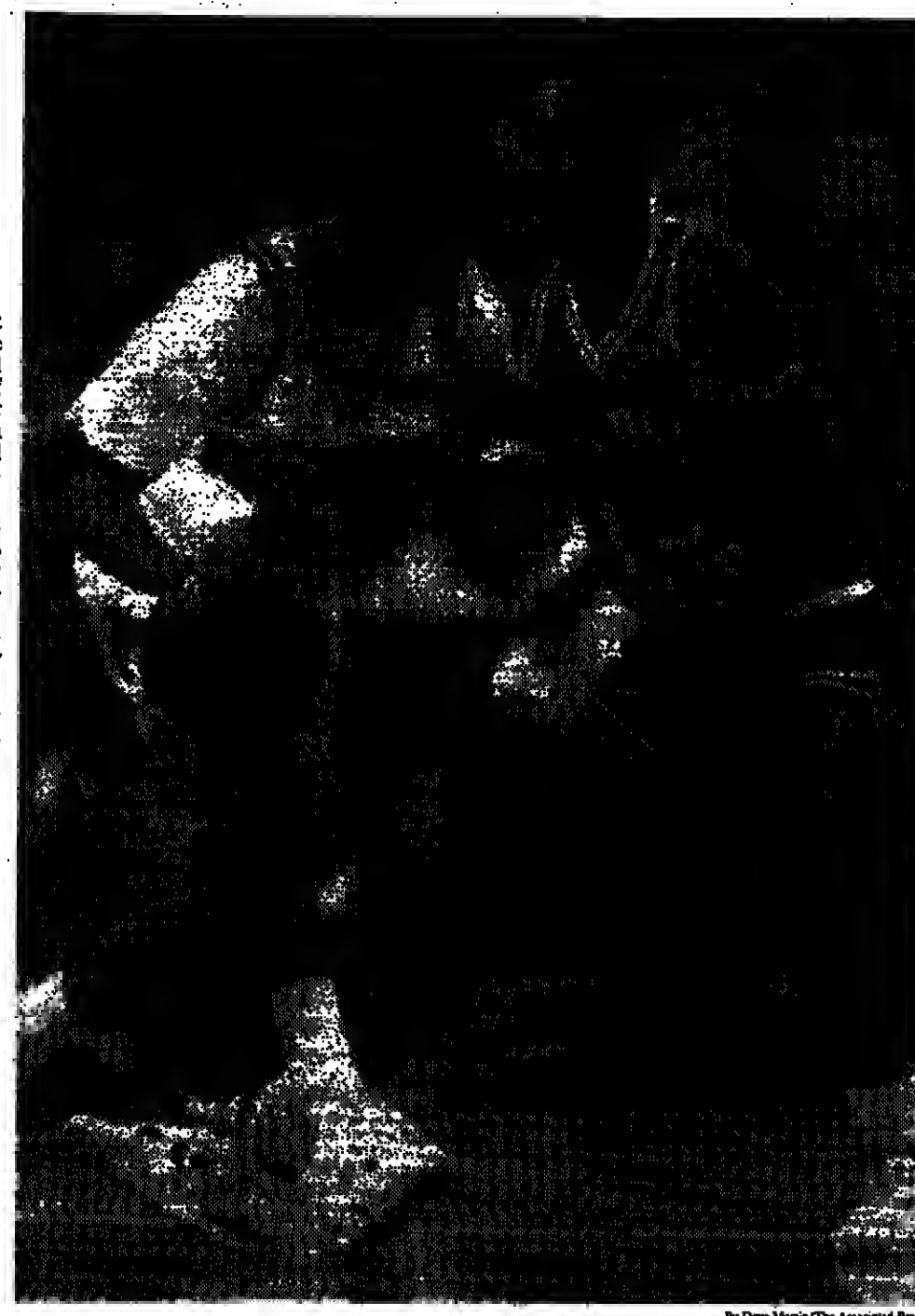
The judges gave Ito a wide range of marks for the required elements, from 5.2 to 5.8. For presentation it was two 5.7s, six 5.8s and a 5.9.

In the men's competition on Thursday night, Browning gained his third consecutive men's title, making him the obvious favorite for the next major international competition, the 1992 Olympics.

Browning won superior scores from six of the nine judges to push him past Viktor Petrenko of the Soviet Union, who had led after the original program.

American Todd Eldredge was third.

(AP, NYT)



Lee Mayberry of Arkansas, driving against Corey Gault of Georgia State in the Southeast Regional.

NCAA Tournament

Thursday and Friday

First Round Results

EAST REGIONAL

Oklahoma State 57, New Mexico 54

N.C. State 114, Southern Miss 85

Syracuse 69, Richmond 73

E. Michigan 76, Mississippi State 56

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL

Pittsburgh 76, Georgia 66

Kansas 85, New Orleans 69

Florida State 75, Southern Cal 72

Indiana 79, Coastal Carolina 68

Golden State 63, 62

MIDWEST REGIONAL

NE Louisiana 73, Duke 62

Utah 74, E. Tennessee 56

LSU 62, Connecticut 77

Marquette 84, Xavier 69

St. John's 75, North Carolina 68

WEST REGIONAL

San Jose State 71, Portland 61

New Mexico State 56, Creighton 64

Virginia 68, BYU 61

Arizona 70, St. Francis 60

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Detroit 85, New Jersey 78

Dallas 85, New York 78

San Antonio 85, Houston 78

Phoenix 85, Portland 78

San Jose State 85, Portland 78

San Antonio 85, Houston 78

Phoenix 85, Portland 78

San Jose State 85, Portland 78

San Antonio 85, Houston 78

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San Jose State 85, Portland 78

San Antonio 85, Houston 78

Phoenix 85, Portland 78

The Men Behind the Revolving Door of College Basketball

By George Vecsey

New York Times Service

SYRACUSE, New York — In college hoops, the players come and go. But the coaches are always with us, from decade to decade. Dick Tarrant and Bob (I Want to Sound Mature, So You Call Me Robby) T. Punch Out Your Lights) Knight, plus a bunch of tricksters from Jersey. These same delightfully obsessive folks return every March, moaning the same fears of failure while their players follow the same intricate game plans. The coaches control the college game more than anybody runs any other sport.

Remember last year how Duke got to the Final Four because Mike Krzyzewski spotted a gap in the Connecticut defense, and shouted a switch to his players, who responded exactly the way he had been teaching them since Oct. 15? Remember how Guy Lewis' Houston team went into an inexplicable slowdown in the 1983 final to allow North Carolina State to catch up?

And every coach in America fears Dick Tarrant, 60, a late bloomer who spent much of his career coaching high school players in New Jersey. Now he coaches the Richmond Spiders, who upset Auburn in 1984 and then knocked off Indiana and Georgia Tech in 1988.

This year, Tarrant got a chance to terrorize Syracuse and took full advantage of it. Not only that, but Jim Boehm and his players had to sit around College Park, Maryland, all day Thursday, knowing they had a late night appointment with a band of Big East and Atlantic Coast rejects who probably wouldn't make a mental error for the entire 40 minutes. And, surprise, surprise, they didn't.

OTHER oldies but goodies return every March. John Thompson and Georgetown have been the villain in the Big East for a decade, because of the combative way the players come roaring into the game, like hockey lines ready to give 40 or 50 furious seconds per shift.

This weekend, Georgetown is the villain no longer. Talk about Mission Control. The defending champions from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas are due to go on probation next season, because of offenses committed once again by Jerry Tarkanian.

Just by coincidence, the people at the National Collegiate Athletic Association in Mission, Kansas, have put Georgetown on a collision course with Nevada-Las Vegas on Sunday night.

Heinzer Takes Downhill Title

By Steve Berkowitz

LAKE LOUISE, Alberta — Aided by a blizzard, Heinzer took the title of the season on Friday and Franz Heinzer of Switzerland clinched the downhill title by placing second.

Skaidar was clocked in one minute 38.08 seconds. Heinzer's time was 1:58.22.

Austrian Helmut Hodlechner, who won the last downhill to be held in Lake Louise in 1983, was third in 1:58.26.

American A.J. Kitt was fourth in 1:58.36 and Austria's Patrick Ortlieb was fifth in 1:58.61.

Yugoslav skier Andrija Potisk sustained fractures in her back when she fell during a training run in preparation for the women's World Cup downhill races over the weekend. The Associated Press reported from Vail, Colorado.

Potisk, skiing in a field of 46 competitors, suffered compression fractures of the sixth and seventh vertebrae on Thursday.

She was removed from the course and taken to the Vail Valley Medical Center, then was transported to St. Anthony Hospital in Denver for further observation.

Medical officials said she had feeling and movement in all of her extremities.

In another development, Reuters reported that Petra Kronberger of Austria withdrew from the weekend's World Cup downhill races due to injury but was virtually assured of retaining her overall title after Carole Merle of France decided not to enter a race next weekend.

Five Nations Marks a Finale

The Associated Press

LONDON — Serge Blanco plans to make a grand slam farewell in the Five Nations' rugby union championship on Saturday as France and England meet for the title and a clean sweep of victories.

Both teams have beaten Wales, Scotland and Ireland on the way to a triumph at Twickenham, and the French captain and fullback wants to end on a winning note.

In Saturday's other game, Scotland will face Ireland at Murrayfield, Edinburgh. But the England-France match should show which side is best equipped to take on the favored New Zealanders and Australians when the World Cup is played in Britain, Ireland and France in October.

Although Blanco, 32, will lead his team at the World Cup, he has said this is his last season at international level. Born in Venezuela, he has played 85 times for France since 1980, scoring 33 tries.

If the two sides stick to the styles that have brought them success this season, Blanco should be one of the stars. The game will pit England's methodical, safety-first game against the fast, open running and slick passing of the French.

England will rely on the accurate penalty-kicking of its own fullback, Simon Hodgkinson, the scrumming power of its forwards and the kicks of fly-half Rob Andrew. Hodgkinson kicked a record seven penalties against Wales and has collected 44 of England's 62 championship points.

But France has its own specialist kicker in Didier Camberabero, a fly-half who holds the world record of 30 points scored in an international game against Zimbabwe in 1987.

Last season England also went for the grand slam but was beaten by Scotland in another winner-takes-all match. This season Scotland has lost to England and France and beaten only Wales.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

W L Pct GB

Boston 27 14 .659 0

Philadelphia 26 15 .634 1

New York 25 16 .610 2

Washington 23 18 .563 4

Atlanta 22 19 .537 5

New Jersey 20 21 .484 7

Central Division

W L Pct GB

Chicago 31 10 .759 0

Detroit 29 12 .705 2

Indiana 28 13 .683 3

Albany 27 14 .659 4

San Antonio 26 15 .634 5

Western Conference

Midwest Division

W L Pct GB

San Antonio 31 10 .759 0

Utah 30 11 .732 1

Portland 29 12 .705 2

Phoenix 28 13 .683 3

Golden State 27 14 .659 4

Seattle 26 15 .634 5

Los Angeles 25 16 .610 6

San Diego 24 17 .587 7

Denver 23 18 .563 8

Western Conference

Pacific Division

W L Pct GB

Portland 31 10 .759 0

Seattle 30 11 .732 1

Golden State 29 12 .705 2

Los Angeles 28 13 .683 3

San Diego 27 14 .659 4

Phoenix 26 15 .634 5

SOCCER

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

Monpellier 1, Lyon 0

NORTH AMERICAN CUP

Mexico 3, Canada 0

HOCKEY

NHL Standings

WALE CONFERENCE

Pacific Division

W L T Pts GF GA

N.Y. Rangers 31 10 2 64 128 88

Pittsburgh 30 11 3 63 127 91

Philadelphia 29 12 3 61 126 94

Washington 28 13 3 59 125 97

New Jersey 27 14 3 57 124 100

N.Y. Islanders 26 15 3 55 123 103

Atlantic Division

W L T Pts GF GA

Boston 31 10 2 64 128 88

Montreal 30 11 3 63 127 91

Quebec 29 12 3 61 126 94

Buffalo 28 13 3 59 125 97

St. Louis 27 14 3 57 124 100

Chicago 26 15 3 55 123 103

Camden Conference

W L T Pts GF GA

Los Angeles 31 10 2 64 128 88

San Jose 30 11 3 63 127 91

San Diego 29 12 3 61 126 94

San Francisco 28 13 3 59 125 97

Los Angeles 27 14 3 57 124 100

San Jose 26 15 3 55 123 103

San Francisco 25 16 3 53 122 106

San Jose 24 17 3 51 121 109

San Francisco 23 18 3 49 120 112

San Jose 22 19 3 47 119 115

San Francisco 21 20 3 45 118 118

San Jose 20 21 3 43 117 121

San Francisco 19 22 3 41 116 124

San Jose 18 23 3 39 115 127

European Basketball

CHAMPIONSHIP CUP

Real Madrid 85, Barcelona 78

Barcelona 85, Real Madrid 78

Real Madrid 85, Barcelona 78

Barcelona 85, Real Madrid 78

DAVE BARRY

Volatile Vegetables

MIAMI — Spring is here, and as an educated, environmentally sensitive nutrition fanatic, you should definitely think about organically growing your own fruits and vegetables.

What do we mean when we say "organically grown" fruits and vegetables? Technically, we mean: "Fruits and vegetables with insects living in them." Insects are an important source of highly nutritious protein. Look at bats. Bats eat a lot of insects, and they're extremely healthy. They can spend a wild night of flying around screaming and sucking blood from unwary victims, yet when they get back to the cave they still have enough "zing" left to make behind a stiletto for some hot sauce-enhanced sex ("Oh, Marshall! Generate that frequency again!"). This is in stark contrast to the average American consumer, who rarely makes it through the monologue on "The Tonight Show." Why? Because the average American consumer is eating SUPERMARKET FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, which are known to contain — prepare to be alarmed — chemicals.

Of course not all chemicals are bad. Without chemicals such as hydrogen and oxygen, for example, there would be no way to make water, a vital ingredient in beer. But many of the fruits and vegetables that you buy in supermarkets have been saturated with a class of chemicals that are defined, technically, as "dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls." These chemicals can be harmful. In one laboratory experiment, they were fed to a group of rats for six months, at the end of which 68 percent of the rats had become cigarette smokers.

As a modern concerned paranoid consumer you should definitely grow your own food organically. A good fruit or vegetable to grow yourself is the tomato. You've probably noticed that modern supermarket tomatoes are inedible. This is because they're not bred for human consumption; they're bred to be shipped long distances via truck, which requires that they have the same juicy tenderness as croquet balls.

The biggest problem with home-grown tomatoes, of course, is that they might summon armed police to your home. I base this statement

on a Roanoke Times & World-News story sent to me by many alert readers. This story states that a couple in a remote area of Montgomery County, Virginia, had placed a tomato in a wire basket, and while the couple was away the tomato burst open and dripped juice onto the phone-answering machine, causing it to short out somehow and repeatedly dial the county's 911 emergency number. The sheriff's department traced the call and sent out some deputies, who went into the house with their guns drawn. Fortunately, the tomato did not try anything stupid at that point, so the matter was resolved peacefully, but you shudder to think what might have happened if it had been a more volatile vegetable, such as an asparagus or, God forbid, a zucchini.

Another vegetable you need to keep a close eye on is the eggplant. I have here an article from the International Herald Tribune concerning a man named Zahid Kassam in central England who claims that, when he cut open an eggplant, "the seeds formed the name Allah in Arabic." According to the article, "an estimated 4,500 pilgrims have visited Mr. Kassam's small house in Leicester since the town's mosque designated the vegetable a holy object." And this is not an isolated incident. The same article states that a man in nearby Nottingham claims to have found Allah's name in yet ANOTHER eggplant.

To me, this article is even more alarming than the one my friend Libby Burger put on her refrigerator several years ago concerning the woman in Mexico who attracted large crowds after discovering a tortilla with the face of the Virgin Mary on it. Because that was just one isolated tortilla, apparently acting on its own, whereas here we have what is obviously a coordinated effort by an entire class of vegetables to form the name of a world deity. This means that you, as a nutrition-conscious organic gardener, run the risk that thousands of pilgrims could flock to your door, creating a dangerous situation that could very well panic one of your tomatoes into calling the police.

Maybe you should just order a pizza.

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Japan-U.S. Talks: The Man in the Middle

By Elisabeth Bumiller

Washington Post Staff Writer

TOKYO — It is sometimes said that the Japanese language is the greatest barrier to communication ever devised by the mind of man. Schoolchildren spend nine years memorizing 1,945 written characters, the minimum (out of more than 40,000) they must master to read a newspaper. Spoken Japanese is a nightmare of intricate rules for addressing superiors and referring to people inside and outside your company or family.

Worse, the language is exceedingly vague. In one incident, Richard Nixon was led to believe that Japan had agreed to a deal with the United States. When Prime Minister Eisaku Sato told him "Zensho shimasu" — literally, "I will dispose of this in a favorable way." But any native speaker knows that the expression, as used in Japanese political circles, means nothing more than "I'll think about it." Washington and Tokyo spent the next two years squabbling over the meaning of Sato's remark.

Today, the person best suited to head off such flaps is Ken Yokota, the number one English-Japanese interpreter in Tokyo. When Japan speaks to the United States, Yokota is often in between, negotiating the dangers in a linguistic no-man's land. Born in Japan, educated in Stockholm, New York, Tokyo and London, Yokota, 43, is the son of a diplomat.

He works for Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills. He interprets for Solomon Brothers and Keidaiaren, the Japanese business association that represents the giants of the industrial oligarchy. He has also interpreted for Joe DiMaggio and Brooke Shields. What did he think of her? "Pretty, tall," he says, and compared with the prime minister, "much less demanding."

In the past 13 years, Yokota has been at many contentious U.S.-Japan trade talks, dutifully translating every obscenity and tantrum, as the Americans have pressured the Japanese to open their markets to U.S. beef, citrus, semiconductors, wood products and lawyers. "I try to reproduce the entire atmosphere," Yokota says. "When someone shouts, I do my best to pull myself together and shout too. But I tell people when they start throwing punches they should go through me."

Yokota, like the handful of other top interpreters in Tokyo, makes \$700 a day, and moves with seeming ease between his American and Japanese clients. But he admits that his work got especially delicate during the 1985 semiconductor talks, when he was hired for one round by the Japanese and for the next round by the American side — causing criticism that he was playing the two sides off each other. The United States would do better in the trade talks if it hired American interpreters who were part of the team. "In an ideal world, that would be



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Yokota's success is due in large part to his flawless English, particularly striking since the Japanese who do know the language do not speak it particularly

well — a situation considered the fault of Japan's education system, which emphasizes the rules of English grammar and not conversation. Yokota, who speaks unaccented and idiomatic American English, learned in the United States, has such a command of the language that his repertoire includes an Oxford accent he darts off for British clients.

On duty, Yokota is genial, formal and impeccably dressed, usually in Italian suits, crisp white shirts and burgundy ties. Off duty, he goes home to his Japanese wife and two children in a far-flung suburb of Tokyo. He reads to relax, mostly in English, either magazines or Jeffrey Archer spy novels. Two or three nights a week, he stays out as late as 2 A.M. eating and drinking with old college friends — the inalienable right of the Japanese husband.

Over the years, Yokota has learned enough secrets to write a volume of memoirs, but the ethics of interpreters forbids this, at least for now. "I've heard some amazing things," he says, only saying that the secrets include light during negotiations, private agreements between two companies and incompetent performances by officials during trade talks.

Yokota's fans in Tokyo say his other interpreting skills are speed, accuracy and the ability to speak sophisticated Japanese.

Not long ago, Yokota was interpreting for Bill Emmott, an editor of the Economist and the author of "The Sun Also Sets," as he spoke to a crowd of Tokyo businessmen. Emmott referred to an "unhappy alliance" against free trade in the United States, and even though there is no phrase in Japanese for "unhappy alliance," Yokota instantly plugged in Japanese words. Afterward, he explained why. "Unhappy" means dirty or soiled, with a religious connotation, as if one's soul has been tainted. Yokota says there is a phrase in Japanese for holy alliance — *shinrei dōmei* — and that he could have added "for" to make it negative. But he decided not to. "The audience would have been the same," he says, "but probably the audience would not have absorbed it very naturally."

Throughout history, interpreters have always had the potential for influencing events and creating catastrophe. "It's scary," Yokota says. "One slip of the tongue at a press conference and it can be carried electronically around the globe."

One of Japan's more recent disasters occurred in 1981, when Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki delivered a speech in Japanese to the House Foreign Affairs Committee in Washington, saying that in defense matters Japan was "not a roaring lion, but a clever hedgehog." This is a common phrase in Japan, implying that the nation is not an aggressor, but clever enough to monitor the seas around Japan and use its defensive force — like a hedgehog uses its needles — if attacked.

The word that Suzuki used for hedgehog was "horizune," which literally means "a mouse with needles." But the interpreter couldn't remember what a *horizune* is in English. Pressed, he took a stab at it and told the committee that Japan was "not a roaring lion, but a wise mouse." The next day the mouse roared up a mess of its own, and a Washington Post editorial scolded Suzuki. "The Japanese cannot simply explain their special conditions [on military matters] and sit back with folded arms," the Post said. "Americans do not expect Japan to become a lion that roars. But a lion that squeaks?"

Suzuki's interpreter — by now no doubt fully educated in the nuances of hedgehogs — announced that Suzuki had actually meant "prudent porcupine." A commentator, who wrote about the incident for the Spectator, thinks things could have been worse. "If Suzuki had actually said 'wise mouse,'" he says, "that might well have come out literally as 'cunning, small rat.'"

Yokota says he took up interpreting because it was an intellectual challenge. "I felt there was nothing that would interest me more."

Was he drawn by the secrets, the behind-the-scenes power? "I didn't look at it as power. It was more like working on a puzzle and having to work on that puzzle right then and there."

PEOPLE

Spike Lee Will Teach Film Course at Harvard

Spike Lee is going Ivy League — with plans to teach a film course at Harvard University next spring. Lee, the director whose films include "Do the Right Thing" and "Mo'Nasty Blues," accepted a one-semester appointment as a visiting lecturer in the school's Afro-American Studies Department. "Harvard's a very prestigious institution," Lee said. "It should be fun." Lee recently took over a much-delayed film on the life of Malcolm X, the militant black activist who was assassinated in 1965. Lee had complained that a white director should not head the project. Lee's latest movie, "Jungle Fever," stars Wesley Snipes and Annette Bening. "Jungle Fever" for me is about boundaries," Lee said, "boundaries real and boundaries that are self-imposed by man, based upon race, class, sex, neighborhoods." The film is expected to be released in June.

Irish lesbians and gay men will march with Mayor David N. Dinkins in the St. Patrick's Day Parade Saturday, in a settlement of a furor that transformed the run-up to the grandest of New York parades into a singularly New York donnybrook. The compromise, worked out by the mediation help of Dinkins' office, spared him and other politicians the need to make a painful choice between two of the city's more favored constituencies, the Irish organizers of the parade and gay and lesbian organizations. The resolution is such a political relief that some politicians said they would march not once, but twice. Dinkins said he would march with the gay group and also left open the possibility that he might take the mayor's customary spot at the head of the line of march.

Caryle Murphy of The Washington Post won the George Pollak award for best foreign reporting for her coverage of Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion. Murphy remained in Kuwait after her colleagues had escaped, the citation said. "Although her coverage often had to remain anonymous in order to protect her as she hid from the invaders, she continued to send out stories for a month," Susan F. Rasky and David E. Rosenbaum of The New York Times received the award for national reporting for their reports on the budget debate.

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